Welcome to the second annual exhibit of Felted Forms.

Last year we took you on a colorful journey through the woodland International Sculpture Garden.

This year, we again use color and form to enhance the grey winter scenery.

We hope you will take a stroll along the path and discover these felted forms for yourself.

“Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius.” – Pietro Aretino

Bringing it all together with soap and agitation

Felt making is a very ancient craft that dates back to the beginnings of civilization. Wool fibers are felted using moisture, friction and heat. As the wool shrinks, the fibers interlock and mat together. Our goals are to take this simple, natural process and produce art forms of all types as well as introduce this amazing material to a wider audience through exhibition in galleries and alternative spaces.

Growing out of a study group from members of the Kansas City Weavers Guild, The Feltmakers Federation of Kansas City has grown to include a range of people interested in developing art forms using this oldest of textiles.

Contact us at Feltmakersfederation@gmail.com or visit our website www.feltmakersfederation.com

February 11, 2017 - March 31, 2017

Wool In The Woods
A special outdoor exhibit produced by the Feltmakers Federation of Kansas City.

Felted Forms:

Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
8909 W 179th Street
Overland Park, KS 66013
www.opabg.org
These sculptures will brighten the gray winter landscape. Enjoy the exhibition, learn about the craft of felting and see how it can be pushed to its limits.

**Bonnie Ahrens – Untitled**
Have you ever seen the Greek God of the North Wind and Winter? He’s right here in the Arboretum.

**Kate Bartotti - The Mouse House**
My wool sculpture is a small home for mice, inspired by the tales of many classic authors, such as Beatrix Potter.

**Jamie Dack – Untitled**
This flower piece is to represent nature’s ability to recreate itself and in so doing inspire us with its beauty.

**Lauri Davidson - Untitled**
In the winter as the forest becomes a mass of grays and browns, vines of colors creep through the trees adding splashes of yellows, oranges, reds and purples. The colors offering hints of what the spring and summer bring back to the forest.

**Jan Gallagher – Dream Catcher**
My dream and greatest wish for humanity is to live in peace and harmony. In this Native American Dream Catcher, I capture the Peace Symbol with Celtic designs from my country of origin, Wales. “Native Americans believe that the night air is filled with dreams both good and bad.” The dream catcher catches the dreams as they flow by. The good dreams gently slip through the outer holes and slide down the soft feathers... The bad dreams...get tangled in the dream catcher and perish.”

**Jackie Kincaid – Silent Wind Chime**
These silent wind chimes were created to combat the loudness of this year. In spite of their color and height variation, there is a welcome rapport between the tubes as they hang together. My hope is their movement will be highlighted by their silence.

**Barrie Mason – Kites Caught in the Trees**
Flying kites exemplify beauty, freedom and grace, but what happens when they are caught? What have they seen? What do they see now? Will they ever fly again? So many questions; so many dreams.

**Suzanne Metzler – Kansas Sea**
The felt created for the Overland Park Arboretum reflects the geologic and biological history of Kansas. During the last great warming, much of the state was a vast shallow sea. Flatworm, slugs and other soft-bodied creatures would have thrived there. Creatures such as those depicted by my felt art may evolve and live in this area again if the world undergoes another extreme warming.

**Carol Ann Parker – Andy the Panda**
Inspired by the Chinese sculptures along the path, I created a soft sculpture of the beloved panda bear of China. In contrast to the brass and stone sculptures of the Chinese artists, the soft wool texture of the panda is 180 degrees opposite in texture. The texture is opposite, but the soft sculpture is at home here as a complement to the Chinese sculptures.

**Donna Putnam – Metamorphosis Part I**
The wildflowers on our farm bring colorful butterflies in the spring and fall. This black, white and yellow caterpillar metamorphoses into one of the showiest, best beloved of all butterflies – the Monarch. This piece was created with hand-dyed, locally grown wool, using the technique of wet felting wool over an armature, which helps maintain the form of the piece.

**Jamie Root – Seed Pods**
The vibrant, powerful life of the woods in spring and summer slows in the autumn and is nearly still through the winter. Silent seeds wait to regenerate life, hidden in pods with elegant architecture. Osage Orange has been used to dye my wool pods a clear yellow.

**Judy Santner – “Spring”**
In the very center of winter with nothing to see but shades of browns and grays in our surroundings, I wanted to create a small oasis, an illusion of what is to come. We sometimes need a reminder of the promise of a new life and that promise is preparing itself to comeback, even in the bleakness of winter. This new beginning will surround us with joyful new life, brilliant opulent colors, beautiful painted skies and warm sunshine for everyone.

**Becky Stevens – Fungus Among Us**
My installation is a joyous and whimsical celebration of textures and patterns found in nature, and the possibilities of creating without harming the environment. Natural fibers and dyes are used in harmony with nature. Ancient art techniques of weaving and felting are used to create my panels.

Visit Our Website: www.opabg.org