The Fibers Program

UW-River Falls is the only college level program in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area offering a BFA Degree in studio fibers. The program is like a “one-room schoolhouse” for textile training. At any hour of any day in the classroom, 18-20 students are simultaneously weaving, silk-screening, laying out fluffy, dyed fleece for felting, spinning both traditional and non-traditional fibers, dyeing yarns and yardage in buckets and dye pots, and wrapping cloth for shibori resists. As new students tackle how to beam a floor loom or silkscreen on organza, they are also vicariously learning about the other techniques going on around them. The program is small and there is no course in only weaving or surface design, but making up for this is the fact that students don’t get locked into any one medium. They may work hard in one technique, but they are surrounded by many others. This encourages lots of crossover ideas and creative combinations.

The Fibers Studio has a state-of-the-art dye kitchen with 3 industrial gas ranges that can accommodate 12 large dye pots at a time; a spacious, vented dye exhaust station; a dedicated area for dyeing with indigo; and finally, a floor loom janitorial floor sinks for drying fibers, hosing and a steaming cabinet; free washer and dryer; two 4 x 8-foot spacious, vented dye exhaust station; a large, dye kitchen with 3 industrial gas ranges that can accommodate 12 large dye pots at a time; a spacious, vented dye exhaust station; a dedicated area for dyeing with indigo; and finally, a floor loom janitorial floor sinks for drying fibers, hosing and a steaming cabinet; free washer and dryer; two 4 x 8-foot spacious, vented dye exhaust station; a large,

The University

River Falls is located along the beautiful Kinnickinnic River and is named for a cascading falls at the junction of the South Fork and the Kinnickinnic, twelve miles upstream from the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. It is located 30 miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota and has the advantages of both small town friendliness, and a rich, academic community, combined with enormous cultural resources in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The student population is 6600 and the student to faculty ratio is 20:1.

Degrees

BFA: Majors and minors in fibers, ceramics, glass, sculpture, printmaking, painting, photography, graphic design, drawing, and art history.
BS/BA: Major in broad area studio arts.
MSE: Major in fine arts education.

Contact:
Morgan Clifford
morgan.clifford@uwrf.edu
www.uwrf.edu/art/

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