



East Meets West

*A Fusion of Salish Coastal Knitting
and SAORI Weaving in British Columbia*



A
Cultural
Fiber
Immersion

Featuring
3 Days
of
Hands-On
Knitting & Felting
and
3 Days
of
SAORI Weaving

in
Victoria
and
Salt Spring
Island

July 13 - 23, 2019



"Uncommon Textile Journeys that Change Lives"

Meet Our Local Fiber Mentors...



Terri with Misao Jo
on her 97th Birthday

Terri Bibby

is a freestyle weaver and designer, creating one-of-a-kind asymmetric clothing, scarves, wraps, bags and wall hangings in the SAORI style.

In her studio in the woods on Salt Spring Island, Terri offers classes, workshops and retreats and is inspired by the ever-changing colors and textures of nature that surround her. She has also had over 1500 people Weave for Peace on beautiful Peace Banners that have been displayed around the world.

Terri's background is in traditional weaving, having studied at Grant McEwan and Olds College. In 2005 she discovered the SAORI freestyle approach to weaving and has since explored SAORI in Canada, the USA and Japan.



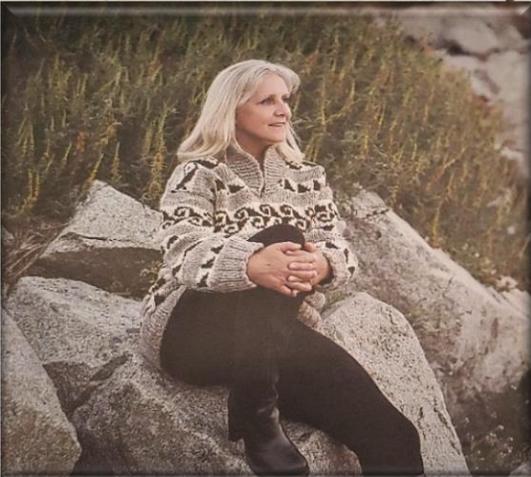
Sylvia Olsen

is an intuitive knitter and designer. She spent 35 years in Tsartlip First Nation living and working with Coast Salish knitters who have inspired her knitting habits, techniques and aesthetic of her unique creations. Sylvia also is a historian and storyteller. In her books *Working with Wool* and *Knitting Stories*, she shares the history of Cost Salish knitting and her experiences with the knitters themselves. In her workshops, she brings these stories alive.

On Sylvia's 2015 knitting road trip from Victoria, BC to St. John's, Newfoundland, she taught almost 900 knitters, visited more than 60 knitting shops and locations and listened to hundreds of knitting stories. Her new book *Finding Canada: Common Threads from a Knitting Road Trip* explores what knitting means to Canadians and what being Canadian means to knitting.

Joni,

Sylvia's oldest daughter, has knitting in her blood. Joni works with Sylvia in their business, Salish Fusion, and shares her Coast Salish knitting experiences and contemporary perspective in the workshops.



The Itinerary at a Glance

- Day 1: Arrive Victoria; Welcome Reception at a First Nation Gallery
- Days 2-4: Coast Salish Knitting & Fulled bag Workshop and Storytelling including an exclusive private tour of Royal BC Museum and local spinning mill
- Day 5: Free morning in Victoria, visit to local spinning mill and travel to Salt Spring Island
- Day 6: Coast Exploring the Textiles of Salt Spring Island
- Day 7: SAORI Weaving Workshop
- Day 8: Saturday Island Market / Weaving
- Days 9- 10: SAORI Weaving Workshop

Salish Cowichan Knitting



"The Cowichan sweater story, to me, is a tale, a collective history, about how diverse people converged to create a unique and truly amazing sweater, and how the sweater affected the people who shared that history." ~Sylvia Olsen

The Cowichan Valley, in the southeast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia, is host to one of the largest First Nation communities, the Cowichan Tribes. A special form of knitting was developed by these First Nation people of the Cowichan Valley and has become iconic around the world. Using a combination of European textile techniques, along with Coast Salish spinning and weaving methods, the Cowichan First Nations create these amazing garments.

A Little History

Coast Salish peoples live on the west coast of Canada and the United States. Before Europeans and currency arrived on our shores, wool blankets were valued assets that were traded and gifted. Blankets demonstrated a family's wealth and position. Originally Coast Salish blankets were made from the wool of the mountain goat, collected from bushes in the spring when the goats shed their fur, and from the wool of small wool dogs that were bred by the women of Vancouver and the Gulf Islands. This combination of wool fibres made Coast Salish blankets original among blankets and became the trademark of Coast Salish woolworkers.



Coast Salish meet European Fashion

In the mid-19th century Europeans brought sheep to the northwest coast providing a new source of wool. Women working for Europeans on farms at the time likely collected fleece from the sheep and began making wool. Soon they picked up knitting needles and created clothing for their families and to trade with neighboring settlers. By the 1920s and 30s, knitters had popularized a specific look that became known as the Cowichan Sweater. The sweaters were popular because of their warmth and comfort and their ability to repel water—a necessity on the west coast. Other products soon followed such as socks and hats.

© <https://salishfusion.ca/pages/about-us>

Top Photo: Tommy Paul, David Latasse and Edward Jim, three Saanich chiefs from Tsartlip, wearing twill-weave mountain goat hair blankets and headdresses. The photo was taken in Brentwood Bay in the early 1900s. IMAGE AA-00617 COURTESY OF ROYAL BC MUSEUM, BC ARCHIVES

Left Photo: Edward Curtis image "A Cowichan maiden of noble birth clad in a goat hair robe." Image by Edward Curtis

SAORI Freestyle Weaving:

Exploring with color, texture & fibers

*“SAORI weaving
is a way to self,
to heart and to healing.
No rules, no mistakes,
only the joy of creation
with fiber.”*

~Terri Bibby

In the language of Zen, “SA” is interpreted as “everything has its own dignity” and “ORI” means “weaving.” Therefore, SAORI weaving is not only a hand craft, but an art form. This style of weaving places the highest emphasis on freedom of expression and inner creativity, rather than conventional textile rules. SAORI is meditative by nature.

We owe the creation of this unique and liberating tradition



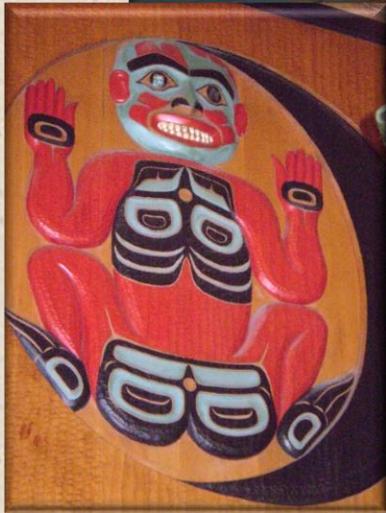
of textile art to Japanese weaver, Misao Jo. In 1969, Misao Jo created a special loom and style of weaving that was free of conventional boundaries. Today, SAORI is practiced in more than 40 countries. Misao Jo has received high honors from the Japanese Government for her contribution made through SAORI weaving.

With most traditions of weaving cloth, any loose thread or irregular pattern is considered a flaw or mistake. However, in SAORI the emphasis is on the spontaneous beauty created by an uneven edge or accidental thread skip. These irregularities in the cloth are viewed by the Japanese as “beauty with lack of intentions” so highly esteemed by Zen-style art and revered in nature. To Misao, SAORI weaving is the “creation of sensibility” with limitless possibilities.

*“It is this individuality that makes everything meaningful
and the uniqueness of each thread that creates the tapestry of life.” ~Misao Jo*

Exploring First Nation Art and Textiles of British Columbia

Beginning in Victoria, Canada's Charming City by the Sea



Saturday, July 13* To Victoria

Today you travel from your home to Victoria, British Columbia. We will be happy to make recommendations for your travel arrangements. Travel options include flights directly into Victoria, BC or flights into Vancouver, B.C. or Seattle, WA and taking the picturesque ferry to Victoria Harbour. Upon arrival, you will transfer on your own to the charming inner harbor area of Victoria. The Magnolia Hotel & Spa, Victoria's top luxury boutique hotel, will be our home for the next four nights.

This evening, we will gather for a welcome reception at the Out of the Mist Gallery. Here, they carry on the tradition begun in the 1860's in Victoria of the first dealers in classic and contemporary Northwest coast native art. This visit will provide a wonderful context to all kinds of native art including traditional potlatch masks, basketry, shamanic devices, button blankets, totem poles, artefacts, and much more. Dinner is on your own tonight as Victoria boasts a myriad of wonderful dining choices. Overnight at Magnolia Hotel & Spa (No meals included)

*You may wish to arrive a day early to explore the many wonders of Victoria on your own. Just let us know and we will reserve an extra night for you at the hotel.





Sylvia Olsen's unique and colorful take on an old tradition

Sunday - Monday, July 14 - 16

Coast Salish Knitting and Felled Bag Workshop & Storytelling with Sylvia Olsen

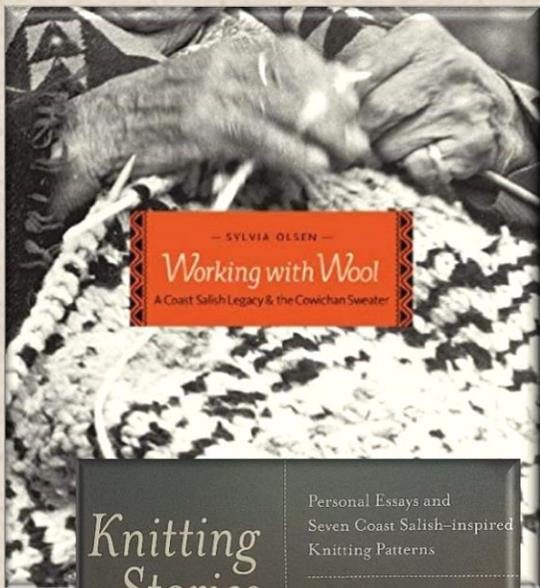
We will spend three days knitting together, learning colourwork and listening to stories about Vancouver Island's most famous knitting tradition with Sylvia Olsen and her Coast Salish daughter Joni. Sylvia teaches what she calls Coast Salish colourwork, not because the Coast Salish invented the technique or because it is unique to their knitting tradition, but because no other tradition uses the technique as exclusively as the Coast Salish knitters. We will complete a felled handbag in this unique style. Sylvia will also demonstrate finishing techniques and buttonholes and talk about fulling your handbag. Our workshop includes a handbag knitting kit with a pattern and lopi-weight wool in natural sheep shades and a leather strap. **No knitting experience is required!** Even if you don't knit, Sylvia's stories throughout our time together will captivate you while Joni offers a contemporary perspective on the knitting culture of Canada. (See next page to read more...)

Including an Exclusive Private Tour into First Nation Cultural Highlights at the Royal BC Museum and a Local Spinning Mill

On July 15, we also have a cultural treat in store with a private tour of the Royal BC Museum's First Peoples Gallery with Leslie McGarry, First People Cultural Liaison. In the First Peoples Gallery, we are privileged to enter the house of Chief Kwakwabalasami, the late Jonathan Hunt, a Kwakwaka'wakw chief who was born and lived his life in the community of Tsaxis (Fort Rupert) on the northeast coast of Vancouver Island. The house is both a museum installation and a real ceremonial house. We'll also explore Totem Hall where monumental carvings, masks, regalia and modern works presented as art and history. We will also visit a local spinning mill! Overnight at The Magnolia. (B daily)



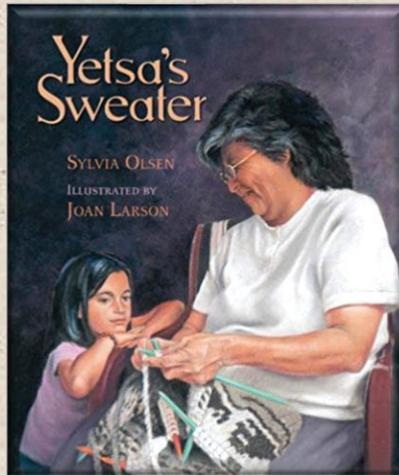
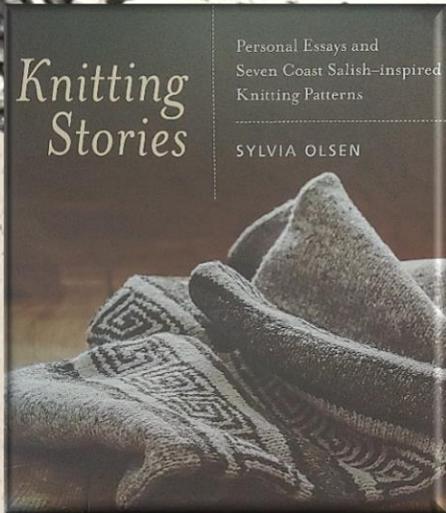
An example of the felted handbag we will create



Sylvia's Storytelling about Knitting Across Canada

For fifteen years, Sylvia Olsen owned a Cowichan sweater shop on the Tsartlip Indian Reserve near Victoria where she listened to the native knitters' stories of life, love, dreams and disappointments. In 2015, Sylvia set out on the ultimate road trip with Tex (her now husband) to answer the question: "What are Canadian's knitting and why?" From Victoria BC to St John's Newfoundland in six weeks...thirty-something yarn stores... sixty-something workshops... more than 800 knitters... and every interesting knitting-related destination along the way. It truly was an epic adventure. Sylvia will share the stories she listened to and discuss what she learned about Canada from the knitters and what she learned about knitting from travelling across Canada. Her book "Knitting Stories" is a

fiber lover's epic read and we have the rare opportunity to hear all about her discoveries in her own voice.



"Knitting stories are as varied as the things we knit and, like all good stories, they tell us about ourselves and what it means to be human."

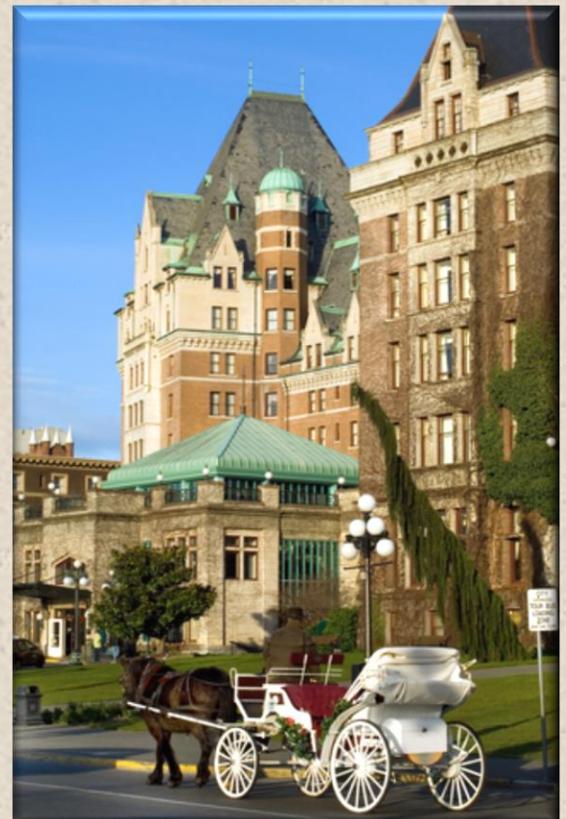
~Sylvia Olsen

Wednesday, July 17 Free Time in Victoria

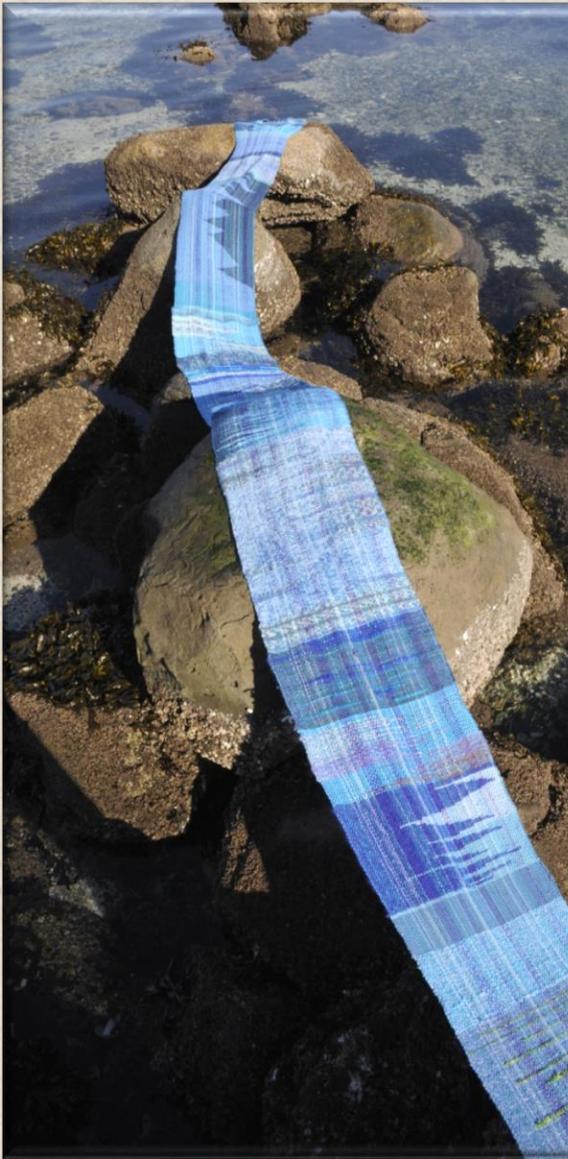
and then off to Salt Spring Island, "Island of the Arts"

The morning is free to explore Victoria on your own. Perhaps you wish to spend a little more time at the museum or do a last-minute shopping. Maybe you want to have one last lunch by the water. In the early afternoon, we head north of Victoria for the short ferry ride to Salt Spring Island. Upon

arrival, we will transfer to the Harbour House Hotel that will be home for the next six nights. (B)



Now it's time to immerse yourself
in the color and creativity of the SAORI way...



Well known throughout Canada as an artist sanctuary, Salt Spring Island is the largest of British Columbia's Gulf Islands. Referred to by the locals as the "sheep tour," one can visit over 30 home studios of weavers, potters, sculptor, painters and photographers. Postcard-perfect, much of the island is an unspoiled paradise. Orcas can sometimes be seen cruising the waters around Salt Spring Island and harbor seals are always present. Sea lions are occasional visitors and a treat to watch frolic in the waters. We are lucky enough to have lots of time to experience all it's wonders for the next six days in this island paradise.

Located in the middle of the island, with only 38 rooms, the **Harbour House Hotel** offers a warm and relaxing atmosphere and rooms with great harbor views. We are in walking distance to the local attractions, shops and restaurants of Ganges Village. This evening we will gather for a welcome drink this evening at the hotel. Overnight at Harbour House Hotel. (B)



Thursday, July 18 Exploring Salt Spring Island

Today we have the whole day to explore the very best of Salt Spring Island. We will board our private van and set off to discover the island's amazing arts and crafts, wines, a cheese farm, a lavender farm, beaches and parks. The sights and colors will be the inspiration for our SAORI projects that we begin the next day. A visit to Terri Bibby's SAORI weaving studio is always a highlight. Overnight at Harbour House Hotel. (B)





Friday, July 19 SAORI Weaving Workshop

Today we begin our SAORI adventure! Weather permitting, we will set up our looms outside on the grounds of the hotel or at their farm. Our looms will be warped and ready to go. After an orientation to SAORI from Terri, we will weave, weave and weave! As a result of our 4-day workshop, we should be able to come away with a completed SAORI project. Overnight at Harbour House Hotel. (B)



Saturday, July 20 Island Market Visit & Free Time to Explore or Weave



Today we take a break from weaving for a real treat! The highest caliber of creativity, as well as an exceptionally high standard of production, makes Salt Spring Island home to the greatest collection of artists in Canada. The island's Saturday Market is the perfect place to wander and linger we will. Here, internationally acclaimed arts and crafts abound from fiber artists, potters, jewelers to woodworkers and fine decorative artists. Also found is an abundance of farmstead cheeses and organic food, music and more festivities. The afternoon is free to explore on your own or to work on your weaving independently back at the hotel. Overnight at Harbour House Hotel. (B)

Sunday - Monday, July 21 - 22 SAORI Weaving Workshop

We will continue to learn more about SAORI weaving for these two days, discuss and try origami-style clothing design, explore more SAORI possibilities and finish our projects. Weather permitting, we hope to set up our looms in various locations outside the hotel to weave on our projects. Overnight at Harbour House Hotel. (B daily)

Tuesday, July 23 Farewell to Salt Spring Island

This morning after breakfast, you will begin your journey home filled with memories of your weaving adventure on "the jewel of the West Canadian Coast." (B)



Land Costs Include:

- 10 Nights' Accommodation based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Breakfasts daily
- 4 Days of SAORI Weaving Workshop including use of the loom and all materials and equipment
- 3 Days of Coastal Salish Knitting & Storytelling Workshop including all materials and equipment
- Private sightseeing tours and exclusive cultural visits/tours
- All applicable service charges and taxes (excluding some international or domestic airport departure taxes)
- Pre-departure materials including a customized Travel Guide containing destination information, packing list and reading list

Land Costs Exclude:

- International air transportation
- Airport transfers as indicated
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional Insurance of any kind; any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions, sickness, civil unrest, government action; or any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control; optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the itinerary. We can make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Cost:

\$2,995 USD Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
Single accommodations available with supplement

Please call us with any questions or to reserve your spot

800.369.3033 (from the US only) ~ 970.728.6743



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or "ordinary" tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-15 participants to allow for a more hands-on, relaxed and intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a traveler, not a tourist.

