

Photography and textiles, Sept. 10–Oct. 25

The Gallery Committee welcomes the 2017–2018 church year with an exceptional show of work from photographers Stephan Kistler and Peter Freeman. Their work will be shown in collaboration with artists from the Textile Center in Minneapolis. We are grateful to the Textile Center for their help coordinating the artists' participation. Please join us for the artists' reception on Sunday, Sept. 17, after worship service.

The Gallery Committee is pleased to welcome six artists who work in sculptural textiles. We are grateful to the Textile Center for their help coordinating the artists' participation. Textile Center was formed by a group of fiber artists and patrons and incorporated in 1994. During its first seven years, the Textile Center operated from a small rented office in St. Paul and presented three or four fiber art exhibitions in venues across the region annually. At the same time, Textile Center founders were building connections among textile guilds, fiber artists and textile arts enthusiasts. They began an extensive search for a permanent home. In 2000, Textile Center found a 1920s one-story brick building in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, and a capital campaign was launched to pay for its purchase and renovation.

Textile Center surpassed its \$2 million capital campaign goal in early 2003, thanks to phenomenal grassroots support from more than 1,300 individuals and scores of textile guilds, businesses, and foundations. In recognition of its artistic initiative and its steps to strengthen the cultural community, the Textile Center received the 2002 U.S. Bank Sally Ordway Irvine Award. Now in its second decade, the Textile Center has become a preeminent center for fiber art, serving a community that is worldwide.

About Peter Freeman

"I love a good road trip. I'm a guy who drives around a lot, makes frequent stops and takes lots of pictures. I descend on small towns and look around to see what grabs my attention. Like a fisherman who looks for prime spots on the lake to cast a line, I will check out main streets, alleys, industrial areas, looking for visual hot spots. All shots are hand-held.

"I am visually mindful of the world around me and continually notice how objects and settings look and fit together. The juxtapositions and arrangements of visual elements—light, shadow, line, shape, dimension, texture, pattern, directionality, perspective, color, tone, layering and context—continually capture my attention, whether I have a camera in hand or not.

"Seeing beyond mere vision is an experience for which I am deeply grateful. Photography is a medium through which I am fully engaged, body, mind, heart and spirit in the experience of seeing, much like a chamber musician playing a string quartet. That fullness of experience brings me joy; that is the point. It is a way for me to be awake and mindful, to feed soul. Photography as an experience becomes a form of spiritual practice.

"I take portraits of the world, informal snapshots with a strong sense of design and aesthetics. The frame of the photograph allows me to capture arrangements of elements; how they fit together and

“play off each other. Elements combine to create a complex aggregate photo subject greater than the objects depicted at once very familiar and yet unfamiliar, something uniquely common.

“I want viewers of my photographs to interact with the images and with themselves. Stand back and take in the image as a whole, or come forward, step into the image and look around at the various elements in detail. Spend a bit of time noticing the underlying geometrics. Be mindful. Start seeing interesting patterns in the world around us.”

When he is not taking pictures, Peter is a Jungian psychotherapist, executive coach and organization consultant in private practice at Full Circle Dynamics.

Stephan F. Kistler is a photographer who lives in St. Paul. He has had a lifelong interest in the visual arts, especially photography and architecture. He was an avid photographer during his teen and college years in his native Switzerland but pursued a career in science and engineering that pushed his creative endeavors in other directions, and left only limited amounts of time for serious artistic aspirations. Stephan recently retired from 3M, where he last served as a Technical Director, managing a research laboratory focused on innovation and new product incubation. He is still working as a consultant and mentor to innovators and entrepreneurs, but now has the freedom to reinvigorate his passion for photography.

Stephan has not had any formal training in photography or the arts. However, in recent years, he was able to draw guidance, insights and challenges for a new trajectory of learning and discovery from a number of outstanding photographers who are conducting workshops at the Santa Fe School of Photography, the Minneapolis Photo Center, and Madeline Island School of the Arts. His goal is to create a point of view that helps others see their surroundings, neighbors and themselves in a new and enriched way—and, where possible, gain a fresh perspective on key issues our society and environment faces.

This exhibit of Stephan’s work assembles a series of photographs of individuals in need who are “signing” in downtown Minneapolis, at various freeway exit ramps and at intersections throughout the Twin Cities.

The images attempt to reveal the many faces of people who have chosen “signing” as a way of seeking help and support, which they deem more polite than “panhandling.” The portraits, along with brief accompanying quotes, explore the wide range of stories of these individuals, and their reasons for being out in the street—and hopefully provide a glimpse into their hearts, concerns and hopes.

The collection of photographs is intended to make a modest contribution towards bridging gaps and building understanding in our often divided society and harsh political world. They are meant to encourage the viewers to consider a personal avenue in which they can establish common ground amongst different groups in our society, and make a difference in diminishing prejudice and connecting communities.