



*Paula Scaffidi, AKA Fiberella* is a textile artist who has taught professionally since 1976 in a variety of settings. Her love of fabric began as a child with creations made from family remnants. Sewing on a machine since the third grade, Paula grew up in a rural area where nature, free time and encouragement planted the seeds of creativity. When she became an art teacher, she included the sense of touch and use of fabric as a companion to drawing, painting, printmaking and other art media. Paula routinely provided her art rooms with sewing machines and designed textile art experiences for her students to explore. Students also put textiles and sewing machines to great use creating stage sets and costume accessories for school productions.

An avid watercolor painter and drawing enthusiast since college, Paula became thoroughly immersed in the textile arts in the early 1990's; and has been combining fibers in her own art for a number of years. As a pioneer in machine needle felting, AKA Needlepunch, Paula has intensively explored the possibilities of this field; and developed the very equipment she now loves creating with. Her vision for a new tool and the talent of a top notch engineer at BERNINA International in Switzerland, were both key ingredients behind the BERNINA #45 Rotary Punch Tool. So distinctively new in its capabilities, Paula is named on both the US and Swiss patents. The tool can be manually driven and also directed through the use of software. "It's great for both sides of the brain!" Paula goes on to say, "I always love being in the creative stream, and most especially in this case: I've been there all the way from the tool's inception to the art itself. The artist and the teacher in me both light up as artists worldwide explore what's possible in their art, and with this tool. It's a joyful swim in a vast pond of shared creativity."

As an artist, Paula approached the emerging field of needlepunch as a field in its own right, one that would evolve its own visual language; and also as it relates to other textile creations including quilts, apparel, wall hangings, sculptural forms, soft jewelry, handbags, vessels, etc. So her work reflects diversity, in its attempt to both innovate and connect to established fields. Though personally Paula enjoys writing about creativity, teaching, and using many types of art media, her special affinity for the use of fiber is reflected in her online persona, namely "Fiberella." [www.fiberella.com](http://www.fiberella.com)

Paula's new Fiberella Studio Online offers live, interactive eLearning courses that combine beginner friendly art basics, textile craftsmanship and approaches to enhance the ability to tap into personal creativity. At the heart of it all, she's really a creativity coach. She enjoys interacting with students via this international live studio. "What fun to work with artists from all around the world!" You can check out her studio here: [www.fiberellastudio.com](http://www.fiberellastudio.com)

At home Paula loves working in her studio tucked in the trees of North Carolina where she lives with her husband Len, and their two entertaining cats; son Michael is a recent graduate of Appalachian State and is pursuing his career in Nashville, TN. Now rooted in NC, and through the portal of her computer, Paula routinely meets textile enthusiasts and students from all around the world, and can still be home for dinner. "I'm grateful for the balance of time spent quietly working in my studio, and interacting online in a meaningful way with other artists. Everyone enjoys their quiet studio time between meetings. There's continuity in available course work and relationships with students, that simply wasn't possible travel teaching. Reaching out into the world, and being able to live and work in North Carolina, is something I'm truly grateful for."

- B.A. in art education from Emmanuel College, Boston, MA
- B.F.A. in two dimensional design from Hartford Art School, Hartford, CT
- Art Teacher Pre-K through College in MA, NY, FL and TN
- Art Quilts on display in Franklin and Nashville, TN
- First website devoted to machine needle felting: [www.fiberella.com](http://www.fiberella.com)
- DVD with the Janome Company for machine needle felting
- Baby Lock Tech faculty 2004, 2006 and 2007
- Featured apparel artist in a Lark Book: Designer Needle Felting
- Published internationally in several magazines, including Dansk Patchwork Forening and BERNINA's Through the Needle. Topics include enhancing creativity through Textile Sketchbooks, Free-motion Stitching, Drawing with Thread, Creative Machine Needle Felting, Patchwork Floor Art...designing a stone medallion using Embroidery Software, Add Punch to Your Projects, A Design Sew Weekend with a Budding Fashionista
- Faculty: Houston Quilt Festival 2006 & 2007
- Faculty: Long Beach Quilt Festival 2008 & 2009
- Faculty: One of six featured Free-motion demonstrators at Long Beach Quilt Festival 2008
- Free-lance R & D, Research and Development in affiliation with BERNINA International to develop the new BERNINA Punch Tool#45 for Rotary Hook Machines
- Authored the accompanying BERNINA Punch Tool manual, published in twelve languages
- Recognized as a National Artisan by BERNINA; taught several district tours
- Travel teacher, sharing enthusiasm, knowledge and a particular passion for machine needle felting
- Lecturer and Workshop Faculty for The Cleveland Museum of Art in September, 2011.\*

\*This was the first teaching event worldwide with an innovator/artist, teaching on sewing equipment at an art museum. It was also Paula's 83<sup>rd</sup> travel teaching event with a focus on machine needle felting.

- eLearning in the Textile Arts on a wide variety of topics: [www.fiberellastudio.com](http://www.fiberellastudio.com)