

## Artist Statement MJ Lord

I have been a weaver since I was given a small loom for Christmas at age ten. Over years of practice, I've experimented with complex woven structures, but found that what I enjoy most is exploring color, texture, and pattern using the simplest plain weave structure. Tapestry has been my obsession for the past 20 years. There is the process itself, the rhythm and the sound of weaving, the handling of fibers, and the creation out of nothing of not just the imagery, but the canvas itself. It's a challenge, too, to fit curves into the naturally square and linear grid of warp and weft.

Summer Garden came from experimenting with wedge weave. I am fascinated by the way the warp moves when using this weave structure. And it also incorporates my love of gardens and color.

I've had the pleasure of studying with tapestry masters at Penland and Arrowmont craft schools, and am lucky to be part of two wonderful tapestry communities, Tapestry Weavers South and the American Tapestry Alliance. I also occasionally enjoy teaching basic tapestry skills.