

Artist Statement/Susan L. Berger

I make tapestry constructions combining multi-media such as drawing (markers), photomontage, wood, board, paint and fiber threading and needle hooking and other hooking techniques. I call them tapestry constructions or social constructions since they take on a special theme. First I do a series of drawings and photographs and incorporating these ideas into fiber drawing using markers and fiber threading. I then proceed to make a larger piece of found objects and different rug-hooking techniques from the same idea. My work has developed into a more dimensional statement, which gives the pieces greater strength to these fiber-combination works.

Right now, I am working on a series of called “Superior Ink.” I live in Westbeth, which was once the Bell Telephone Laboratory before it became an artist-housing complex in 1970, the first of its kind in the United States. Across the street was Superior Ink Printing Company, which was around since 1918 and moved from its headquarters on Bethune Street to New Jersey. It was our industrial neighbor and valuable fabric of cross-use of a city neighborhood, which is quickly becoming extinct. It had these two wonderful chimneys although not in use for years, but reminded us of New York City in past years. Artists have always intermingled in their neighborhoods but at the same time respected the diversity of its surroundings. We coexisted in the industrial world so as to maintain the vibrant city life. This is why I am pursuing this “Superior Ink” project.