

Gallery G presents...



A must see is this fun, whimsical, engaging exhibit. *Bound to be Free* artist Joy Groninger creates a variety of rope sculptures, with floppy, twisted, dangling shapes, colored yarns, or natural leathers.

BOUND TO BE FREE

Exhibition dates are
Oct. 26-Dec. 27, 2019



Gallery G is located on the N.Manchester campus. Hours are M-F 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. 12–3 p.m., when classes are in session. Free Admission. For gallery information, contact Ejenobo Oke, Director of Galleries, 260-982-5334, eroke@manchester.edu.

Gallery G presents...

Joy Groninger



Photo by Brenda Carver

A NORTH Manchester area resident, Joy Groninger finds rope sculpturing captivates the mind and frees the imagination. She began this journey of making creative rope hangings in the 1970s when macramé was popular. But macramé's preset steps and patterns restricted Joy's passion to develop her own style. Instead, she turned to looping, frizzing, wrapping, adding color, and reconnecting sisal rope to satisfy her craving to create freely.

It's no wonder that Joy's rope hangings first thrived in the 70s. It was a time characterized by environmentalism, women's liberation, rock and roll and bold fads. From pushing the boundaries to using bright colors and wild patterns, the 70s definitely influenced Joy's work, then and now. The free spirit she felt in the 70s blossomed after she retired

in 2009, and her rope sculpture ideas took off in sync with her regained freedom lifestyle.

Joy retired after nearly three decades as Director of Publications and Design at Manchester University. Her rope sculptures have been featured in the Honeywell Center, Wabash, the Nappanee Arts Festival, Nappanee, Ind., and in *Woman's Household* magazine. Joy has also had artwork in other mediums shown in Winger Gallery, Manchester University, the Fort Wayne Castle Art Gallery, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Joy received a Bachelor of Arts in 1968 and the Master of Arts in 1971, both degrees in art education from Purdue University, West Lafayette. She currently resides with her husband, Dennis, on a small farm west of North Manchester.



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Take the ordinary. Make it unordinary. See the potential. Imagine the possibilities. Using rope as my medium gives me those opportunities. Unwrap, fray, twist, rewrap, reconnect. Bingo! It's the beginning of a creation, a feeling or thought waiting to erupt. Add colored yarns or pieces of forlorn wood or junked metal pieces. Give the rope life, a new life that voices the interaction of shape, space, color, and texture into its own identity.

I love using sisal rope, the same kind our grandfathers used to pull hay up into their barns. Sisal rope's natural color and its soft

and flexible characteristics fit the look I try to achieve. From strands of rope in different sizes, to a mixture of leather, cloth or yarns, the idea evolves.

I often see beauty in the unlikely, the dismissed or tossed aside. An old bulldozer

part, discarded shower curtain hooks, or the side of an unused baby crib take on new purpose and become an integral part of the total work. Seldom do I name a piece until it's almost finished, and "Whoolah," it happens! The total process is such an exhilarating experience... so refreshing!

New, imaginative concepts come to me at all times, in the night, on a walk in the woods, or simply when talking with a friend. Never before have I felt such freedom as when I'm making rope sculptures. Thus the name of this exhibit, "Bound to be Free."



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