

Biographies: Philadelphia Narratives

(originally presented as part of the Diversity Panel at the Tradition & Transition Symposium, Chicago, IL - Oct. 10, 1993)

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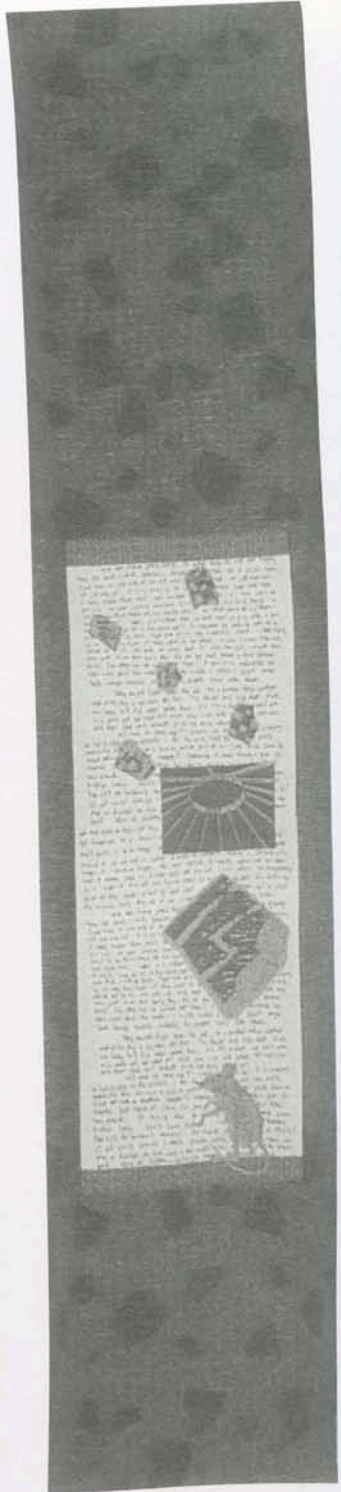
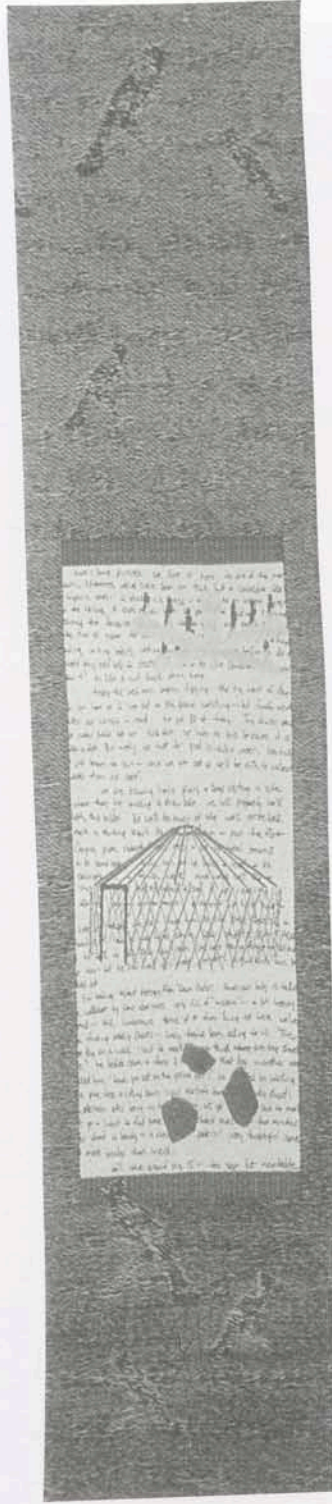
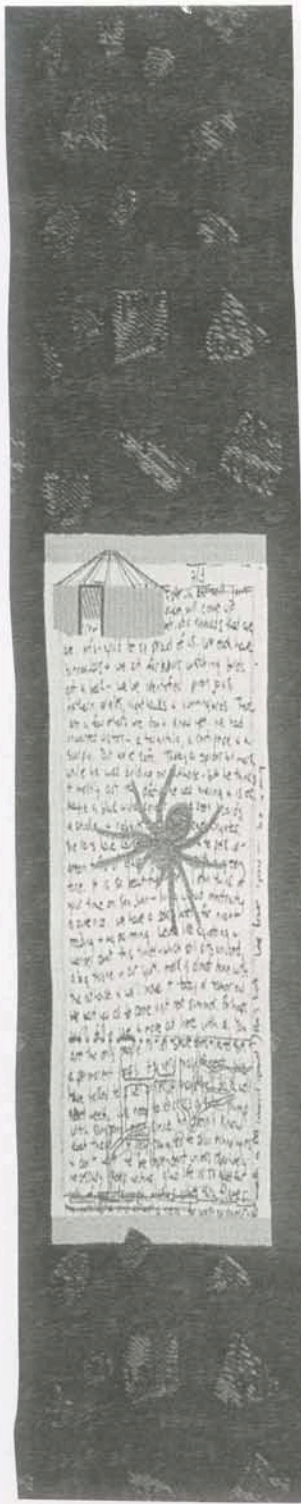
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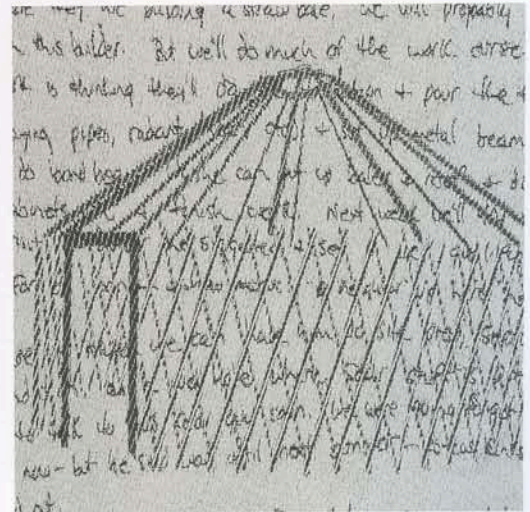
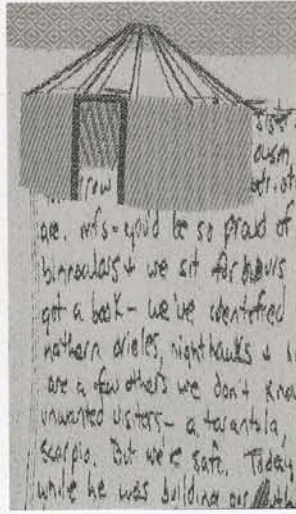
opposite: Bhakti Ziek  
*New Mexico Scrolls 1-4*, 1996.  
 Mixed fibers, woven weft-back jacquard,  
 74 x 15 each, two-sided.  
 Woven at Philadelphia College of  
 Textiles and Science.  
 Edition 2/2. Lent by the artist.

*New Mexico Scroll 1* (detail side A), 1996.

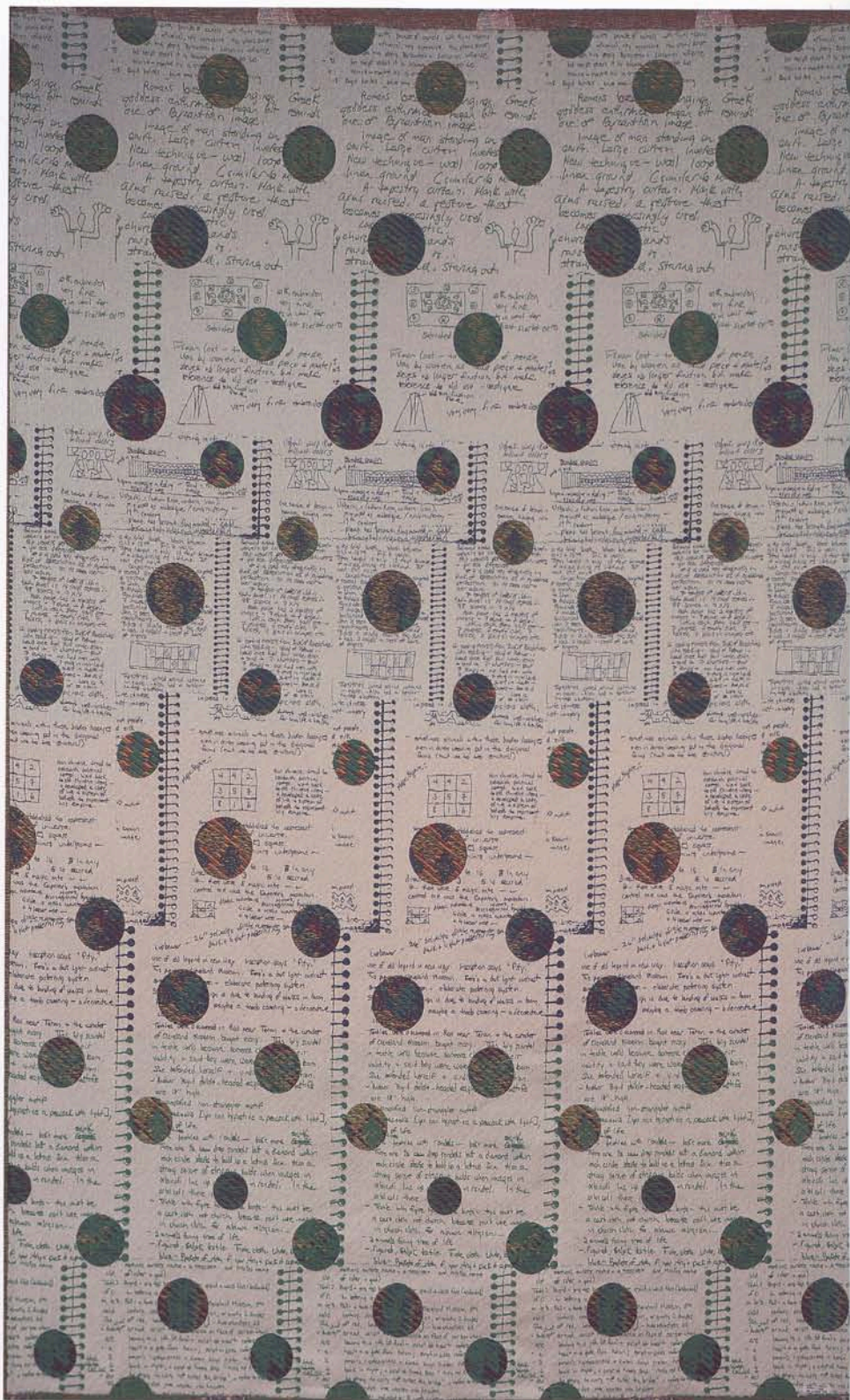
*New Mexico Scroll 2* (detail side A), 1996.

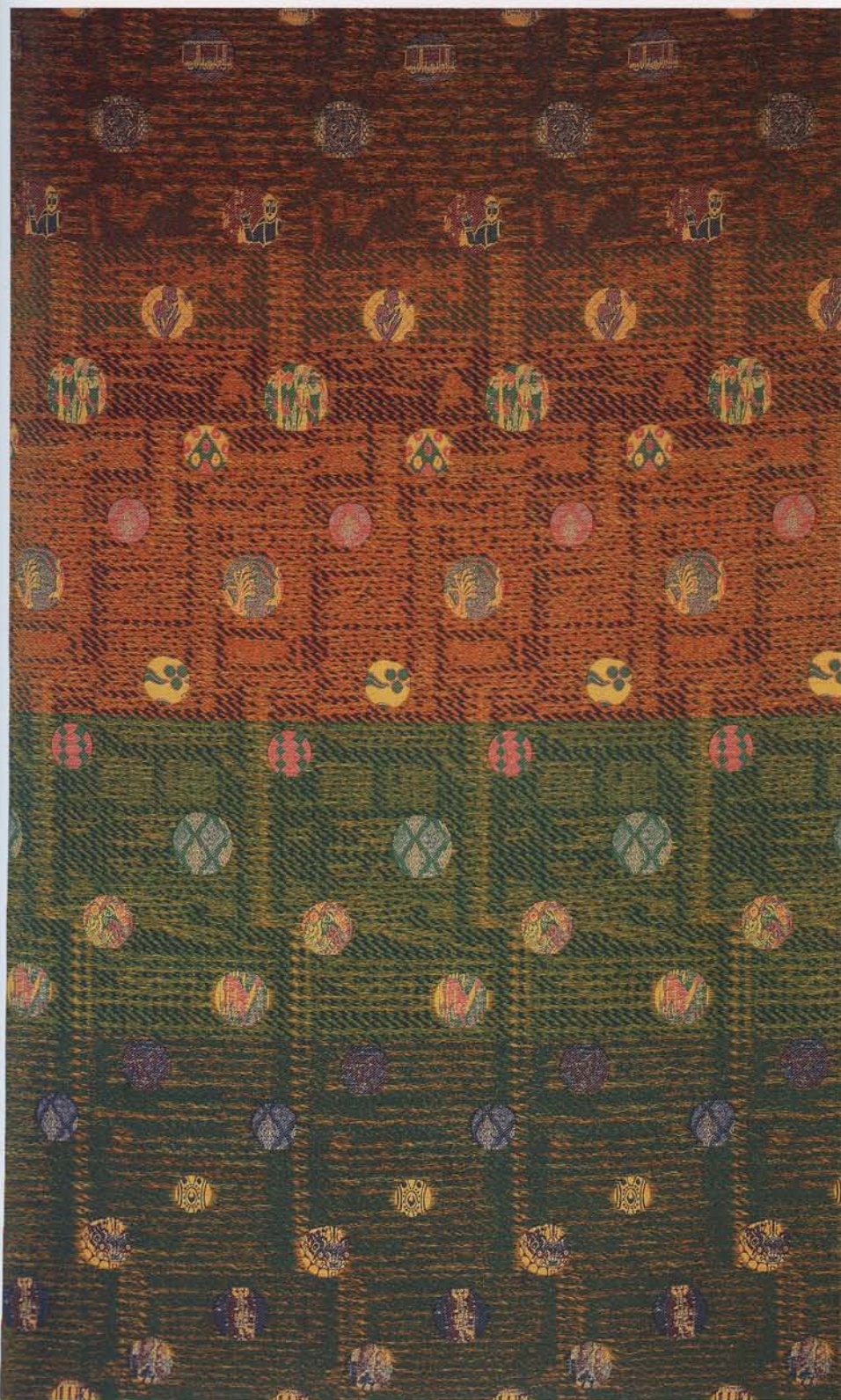
*New Mexico Scroll 3* (detail side A), 1996.

**Bhakti Ziek**, a nationally known fiber artist, uses both traditional techniques and the latest computerized Jacquard looms to create pieces in which notations of her own daily life are woven into the cloth. This complex interplay between visual and verbal elements results in richly colored, textured, and patterned objects infused with information about how Ziek composes the work, how it relates to the history of textiles, and what it means to be an artist. The most straightforwardly autobiographical piece is *Artist's Statement* (illustrated on cover), from 1994, the year Ziek began to work on the computerized loom, which allows her to work much faster than on a traditional hand loom. This piece presents a text from a paper that Ziek delivered at a national conference, entitled "Tradition and Transition." The paragraphs of text, describing the artist's personal path to becoming a weaver over a twenty-five year period, are repeated in four vertical strips across the field against a diamond background pattern. Because the source was a carefully composed written text, Ziek used a standard print typeface, in contrast to other works in the exhibition where the words woven into the cloth are drawn from her journals or notebooks and are, therefore, in her own handwriting. Two pieces from 1996 are double-sided: *History of Fabrics: Barbara's Song*, both an homage to a friend who died of cancer and to the vocation they shared as textile artists; and *New Mexico Scrolls 1-4*, based on the artist's and her husband's experience building a yurt and living on a remote parcel of land they purchased in the Southwest. —J.T.



Bhakti Ziek  
*History of Fabrics: Barbara's Song* (side A), 1996.  
 In memory of Barbara Eckhardt.  
 Cotton, woven west-back jacquard,  
 87 x 52, two-sided.  
 Woven at Philadelphia College of  
 Textiles and Science.  
 Lent by the artist.





Bhakti Ziek  
*History of Fabrics: Barbara's Song (side B)*, 1996.  
In memory of Barbara Eckhardt.  
Cotton, woven weft-back jacquard,  
87 x 52, two sided.  
Woven at Philadelphia College of  
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Lent by the artist.

# *Biographies: Philadelphia Narratives*

Donald E. Camp  
Marilyn Holsing  
Sarah McEneaney  
Michael O'Reilly  
Shashwati Talukdar  
Bhakti Ziek

Judith Tannenbaum  
Alex Baker

Institute of Contemporary Art  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia

## Exhibition Dates

Institute of Contemporary Art  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
March 19-April 25, 1999

Freedman Gallery  
Albright College  
Reading, Pennsylvania  
November 12-December 17, 1999

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*Editing:* Gerald Zeigerman

*Photography:* John Carlano, 8-10;  
Joe Mikuliak, 11-13; Gregory Benson, 25.

Dimensions are in inches; height precedes width  
precedes depth.

cover: Bhakti Ziek  
*Artist's Statement* (detail), 1994.  
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