



VISIONS
MUSEUM OF
TEXTILE ART

IMPACT REPORT 2025



**DECEMBER
2025**

Prepared by

VMOTA

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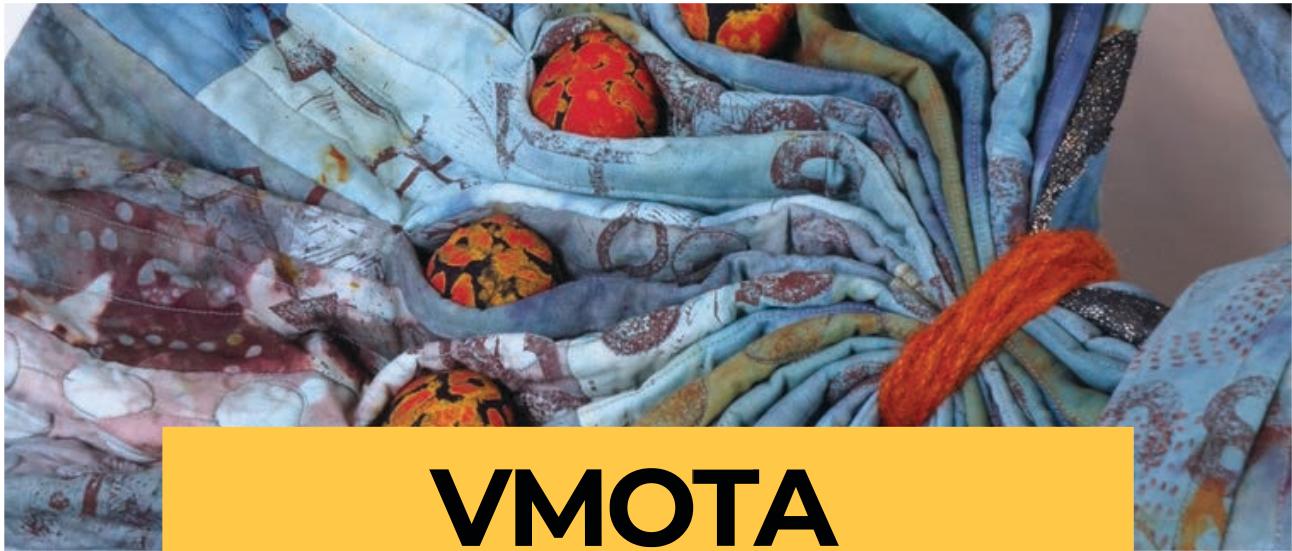


LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I look back on this past year, I am deeply grateful for the ways our community showed up - supporting artists at our opening events, volunteering to teach youth from nearby schools about self-expression, forming generative partnerships with neighboring organizations, and giving generously so we could keep our doors open to the public at no cost. From celebrating global textile traditions to elevating local voices and student designers, our galleries became spaces where creativity, storytelling, and shared experience intersected.

This work is made possible by a community that believes in the value of arts education and cultural exchange. This year, VMOTA expanded educational offerings for learners of all ages, creating pathways for the legacy of textile art to be carried forward. As we move ahead, we remain committed to creating a space where people are challenged, connected, and inspired, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who made this impact possible.

Katrina Bruins
Executive Director



VMOTA OVERVIEW

Located in the heart of Arts District Liberty Station—recently designated as one of California's newest State Cultural Districts by the California Arts Council

VISION

To inspire a world where textile art ignites curiosity, fosters understanding, educates, and empowers individuals to connect deeply with themselves, each other, and the broader cultural fabric of society.

PURPOSE

Visions Museum of Textile Art celebrates and advances contemporary quilting and textile art through exhibitions that explore cultural traditions, contemporary relevance, and innovative creativity. By fostering connection, dialogue, and inspiration, we empower individuals to appreciate, engage with, and contribute to the rich legacy and evolving practice of textile art, building a community that values diversity, creativity, and shared experiences.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF IMPACT THROUGH TEXTILE ART

This year, VMOTA strengthened its role as a cultural anchor where textile art holds a vital place within the broader arts and fine arts ecosystem. Our exhibitions engaged visitors with narratives of identity, migration, memory, and lived experience, sparking meaningful conversations across our community. Through partnerships with schools, cultural groups, and community organizations, we used textile art to foster belonging, emotional resilience, and creative expression. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we honor the vision of our founders by ensuring the museum remains welcoming, inclusive, and deeply connected to the people we serve.



With your support, VMOTA remains one of the few free-access spaces making textile art accessible to all.



Visitors

16,500



**# US Zip Codes
Visitors Came from**

1,236



**# International
Countries Visitors
Came From**

24



EXHIBITIONS: WHERE STORIES UNFOLD

This year's exhibitions explored the evolving possibilities of textile art through themes that deeply resonated with our community. *Prism Play* examined the relationship between color, storytelling, and emotional well-being, creating an environment intentionally designed for calm, sensory engagement, and restorative experience. *We Are Voices of Other Voices* broke new ground through collaborative making, bringing artists and artisans together to create work rooted in shared stories and heritage. *INTIKA: Men in Textile* challenged long-held assumptions about who engages in textile practices, sparking new conversations about identity, creativity, and the medium's evolution. Our Spotlight Gallery continued this spirit of inquiry with exhibitions exploring sustainability, self-reflection, the interplay of tradition and technology, the tensions of the digital age, and the lived experiences of movement and displacement. Through our juried biennial, *Interpretations 2025* presented a dynamic range of contemporary textile voices and bold artistic approaches.



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR GALLERIES

* From The Community

Visitors shared their excitement throughout the year, describing VMOTA as “a wonderful museum” with “amazing exhibits” and “the most amazing pieces.” Many reflected on the joy of discovery, noting that “art can make you feel so many emotions” and “how vibrant art can be made from simple things.”

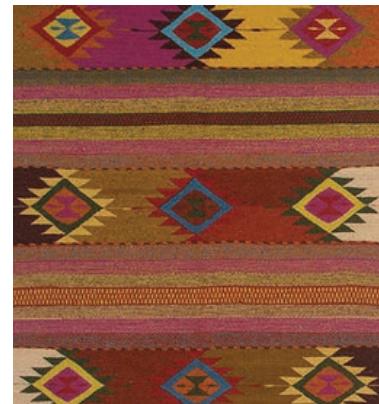
* From The Artists

“It’s an iconic venue in the art quilting community. As someone working in this medium for over a decade, exhibiting at Visions makes me feel connected to my tribe of makers.”/“Having my work accepted into a Visions exhibition has been a highlight of my career. Showing my work in your gallery validates my efforts as an artist and inspires me to keep creating.”/“It was a great artistic experience because for the first time I participated in an exhibition specifically about “textile art” and also in the US.”

164 Artists from **7** Countries
and **14** states Exhibited in
2025

A Total of **20** Exhibitions
Presented This Year

ART IN MOTION: EXHIBITIONS BEYOND VMOTA



INTIKA: Men In Textiles **Oceanside Museum of Art**

Curated by Armando Garcia-Orso, VMOTA's Curatorial and Education Manager, in collaboration with Natalie Gonzalez of the Oceanside Museum of Art, Intika: Men in Textiles highlighted the rich textile traditions of the island of Taquile (known in the indigenous Quechua language as Intika), a community recognized by UNESCO in 2008 as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Select works from the exhibition were presented simultaneously at OMA's Annex Gallery inside the Seabird Resort in Oceanside. This binational collaboration expanded the reach of textile storytelling beyond our walls and demonstrated the power of partnership in challenging long-held gender biases within the medium.

30 Number Artists and **2** Artisans Featured in Off-Site Exhibitions

ART IN MOTION: EXHIBITIONS BEYOND VMOTA

***Snapshot San Diego* San Diego International Airport**

Our newest off-site exhibition, *Snapshot San Diego*, will be featured at the San Diego International Airport. The exhibition centers on a textile-based map of San Diego, with each piece representing an area of the region through its landmarks, histories, and defining moments. With the airport welcoming more than 25 million passengers each year, this installation offers an extraordinary opportunity to elevate textile art and introduce VMOTA's work to a broad and diverse public audience. As the exhibition launches, travelers visiting Terminal 1 will be able to stop by The Studio near Gate 121 to learn more about the participating organizations.

***We Are Voices of Other Voices/Somos Voces de Otras Voces* CECUT - Tijuana**

We Are Voices of Other Voices / Somos Voces de Otras Voces continues its journey beyond VMOTA, extending our mission across the U.S.–Mexico border. The exhibition is now featured at CECUT in Tijuana—one of the most visited cultural institutions in Mexico, welcoming more than one million visitors each year. Bringing this collaborative project to an international museum of this scale amplifies the voices of both modern artists and traditional artisans, and reflects VMOTA's growing impact as we share textile art, cultural storytelling, and community-centered creativity with audiences on both sides of the border. The exhibition opens December 4, 2025.

OUR COMMUNITY & PROGRAMS



Our members, volunteers and community are at the heart of everything we do. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment shape our exhibitions, programs, and partnerships, and guide the ways we continue to grow as a welcoming and community-centered museum.



370+	active members
4,730	community members engaged through our mailing list
64	new members
2,500+	volunteer hours contributed



Through artist workshops and hands-on experiences led by volunteers, we offered participants opportunities to explore techniques such as beading, storytelling-based patchwork, and modern quilt improvisation, while deepening their creative skills.



14	Artist workshops
15	Community workshops and lectures
10	Virtual Self-paced Hands-on workshops

PROGRAMS THAT CONNECTED US THROUGH STORY AND MAKING

780+ people engaged in our workshops, classes, and lectures.



"keep up the great work and wonderous classes!"

"A lovely way to bring the community together."

"Having the Quilter Film director talk at the end of the screening, really brought the work to life. Thanks for bringing her in via Zoom."



Disney's Live Entertainment Team shared a behind-the-scenes look at the process of designing and creating the costumes worn in *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*. From researching the franchise's legacy to developing innovative, inclusive, and functional wearable pieces, their work highlights the ingenuity and expertise behind costume design.



The Quilters documentary highlighted the role of textile art in restorative justice, showing how quilting can hold stories of healing and community repair.



23%

increase in grant revenue

Grants Received

- City of San Diego Arts & Culture
- Arts District Liberty Station
- California Arts Council (New)
- Point Loma Assembly (New)



PROGRAMS THAT CONNECTED US THROUGH STORY AND MAKING



Programs such as *What Is Home?* invited visitors to reflect on their own stories of identity and place, through poetry and textile. *The Welcome Blanket Project* brought community members together to craft blankets as symbols of warmth and welcome for newcomers, demonstrating how textile connects people together.



Our youth programs introduced students to hands-on textile workshops that built creative confidence, offered insight into museum and curatorial operations, and encouraged storytelling through textile art. Connected to current exhibitions, these experiences helped students understand how museums develop, present, and interpret artistic work. By engaging directly with the creative process, participants strengthened critical thinking, self-expression, and a sense of belonging within a cultural space.

280+ children and youth attended our youth programs



“I really loved the incredible environment that was built. I felt welcomed and comfortable to share my thoughts”

“Love this collaboration between head and heart”

“[I learned] art can be of many forms, and that it can convey many messages”

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ROLES

Professional & Advisory Roles

- San Diego College of Continuing Education – Clothing, Textile Arts & Technology Department Advisory Committee
- San Diego Mesa College – Fashion Program Advisory Committee
- San Diego Museum Council – Board Participation

Professional Development

- City of San Diego & University of San Diego – Accelerator Program
- San Diego Foundation Fundraising Conference
- California Inclusive Preservation Program (Balboa Art Conservation Center) – Specialized Training

Community Partnerships

- Persian Place – Cultural Community Event Collaboration
- House of Peru - Cultural Partner
- San Diego Writer's Ink – Collaborative Project
- Helping Empower Community Refugees (HECR) - Welcome Blanket Partner
- San Diego Made Factory – Community Partnership
- Arts District Liberty Station – Community Initiatives
- Art Pharmacy-Community Well-being Partnership

Youth & School Engagement

- High Tech Elementary – Docent Tour
- High Tech High – Program Collaboration
- Dewey Elementary – Liberty School Program
- Cabrillo Elementary – Liberty School Program

Guild Partner Program Participants

- The San Diego Silk Guild
- Canyon Quilters of San Diego
- People of Color Quilt Guild
- San Diego Creative Weavers Guild
- San Diego Metro Modern Guild
- Seaside Quilters Guild

"We will continue to bring cultural awareness into the community—in collaboration with amazing people and organizations like VMOTA, **Because cultural awareness brings peace and helps build bridges where there are divides**", Persian Place.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS



VISIONS GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS

- Barbara Dodson
- Carol Sebastian-Neely
- Carrie Frederick
- Christine Sharp
- Elizabeth Hemming
- Gretchen Rhoads
- Judy Warren-Tippets
- Lisa Tan
- Louise Goodman
- Mary Helmick
- Patti Sevier
- Sidney Windle
- Sue Robertson
- Tara Ritacco
- Anonymous Members

CHAMPION SPONSORS

- Stephen Colburn (In Kind)
- Anonymous Donors

MASTER WEAVER SPONSORS

- Carol Sebastian-Neely
- Charlotte Bird
- Joan Cawthon
- Judy and Bill Warren-Tippets
- Sidney Windle
- Anonymous Donors

40TH VISIONARY DONORS

- Alan Edwin
- Ann and Darwin Olsen
- Barbara Dodson
- Betty and Stephen Colburn
- Carl Brown and Chuck Carpenter
- Carol Sebastian-Neely and Gary Neely
- Carrie Frederick
- Caryl Fallert-Gentry
- Charlotte Bird
- Gretchen Rhods
- Judy and Bill Warren-Tippets
- Kenneth & Charlotte Fortier Foundation
- Lisa and Larry Yoder
- Lisa Tan
- Nancy Lemke
- Regina V. Benson
- Susan Bellis
- Susan Parker
- Sidney Windle
- Tara and Tom Ritacco
- Anonymous Donors

GRAND PHILANTHROPIST SPONSORS

- Alan Edwin
- Carrie Frederick
- Anonymous Donors

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CREDITS



Images

1. A Piece of the World Tuscany Rolling Hills by Kristin Kleyer Mangum, 2002.
2. VMOTA Archive photo by Stephen Colburn, 2025.
3. Anchored, Claire Passmore, 2024.
4. Grandma Pearl, Eden Quispe, 2023.
5. Nocturnal Cities – Urbes Nocturnas, Genaro Moreno, 2023.
6. VMOTA Archive photo by Stephen Colburn, 2025.
7. (left) FelipeCoaquirá, Mitología Andina, 2024.
8. (middle) VMOTA Archive, 2025.
9. (right) Eye of God, Silvia Zitlaly Gutiérrez Reyes, 2024.
10. VMOTA Archive photo by Stephen Colburn, 2025.
11. VMOTA Archive photo by Stephen Colburn, 2025.
12. VMOTA Archive, 2025.
13. VMOTA Archive, 2025.
14. The Quilter Film, photo courtesy of Netflix.
15. VMOTA Archive, 2025.
16. VMOTA Archive, 2025.
17. VMOTA Archive 2025.
18. Multifaceted, Diane Nunez, 2023.
19. Devil of Marigold, MAXERA, 2024.
20. Subterranean, Betty Busby, 2024.