



by Mary Temple

Webster's Dictionary defines the word **TEXTURE** as follows:
 "The characteristic disposition or connection of threads in a woven fabric."

In my texturing workshops I have invited weavers to add to this rather inadequate definition by saying what they think of as a meaning for the word **TEXTURE**. Over the years the definition has become much more complete, and it doesn't surprise me that every new class offers more new thoughts and valid descriptions. Here are their offerings:

- stimulating
- multi-faceted
- positive and negative space
- variety of surface
- topography: grasses, valleys, hills
- what makes life interesting
- thick and thin
- organic: sheep, trees, roots
- a figure or pattern and the ground behind it
- in and out, up and down
- varied level surfaces
- unevenness
- pattern variations
- smooth and not smooth
- complex and simple
- subtle or bold and obvious
- reality or abstraction
- simulates effects found in nature
- invites touching—sensuous
- eye exercise
- visually exciting
- three dimensional/multi-dimensional
- color variants to provide texture
- combinations of flat weaves and textures
- combinations of various techniques within one piece of weaving
- shading and highlighting
- adding something to plain tabby
- feeling: touch, tactile quality
- feeling: mood, illusion, creation of "something more"
- adding another dimension to your work
- unusual grouping of threads
- regular irregularity
- variety and variations
- shadows and illusion
- confusions of light
- a new kind of road map
- combinations of different kinds of threads
- a change of pace
- visual effect of stimulation or relaxation

- relief: physical
- relief: spiritual
- shiny
- fuzzy
- lacy
- lumpy
- hairy
- coarse
- fine
- light
- dark
- bulky
- stuffed
- knotted
- holey
- loopy
- fluffy
- depth
- rough
- pebbly
- nubby
- globby
- warm
- alive
- "things" sticking out
- building structure to achieve shape
- hands on/hands in
- variations of nature

Will you think what texture means to you and add to the list? It isn't finished yet.

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