

# SPEAKERS

## LSDR INTERLUDES

### Amara Hark-Weber

<http://amaraharkweber.wixsite.com/harkweberstudio>



#### FAQ: Four Answers and a Statement

Amara Hark Weber is a shoemaker, artist, and educator based in St. Paul, MN. She is the recipient of the 2017 Rare Craft Fellowship from the American Craft Council, and has participated in several ACC shows and showcases. She has also received grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Metropolitan Council, and Jerome Foundation for her artistic work. In the St Paul workshop, Amara makes custom shoes for individual clients. In addition to making custom shoes, she also teaches one-on-one tutorials and short courses at various schools, past schools including: Penland School of Craft, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Quest University. Before becoming a shoemaker, Amara worked as a photographer and writer, and taught documentary storytelling. She has masters degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the London School of Economics and a BA from Bard College.



# SPEAKERS *continued*

## LSDR PRESENTATION

**Friday 1:30**

**Mary Anne Wise**

[www.culturalcloth.com](http://www.culturalcloth.com)



Mary Anne Wise is an esteemed American textile artist whose hooked and woven works are included in corporate and private collections across the US and Canada. She is a Wisconsin State Arts Board grant recipient and a recipient of a commission by the MN Percent for the Arts program. From 1979-1994 her custom woven rugs were represented in Merchandise Mart showrooms from New York to Los Angeles. From 1994-2008 her textile production focused on her studio practice.

She lives on a century farmstead in rural Stockholm, WI where she and her husband, painter Arne Nyen raised their family.

Mary Anne is co-founder of Cultural Cloth, a social enterprise established to support primarily women textile practitioners from around the world. Through online sales and sales at their store located in Maiden Rock, WI, Cultural Cloth promotes its stable of artists to a wider audience. Applying her nearly 40 years of textile production experience, she offers design expertise and applies her knowledge of industry trends to ensure artists represented by Cultural Cloth will enjoy success in the marketplace.

### Rug Money: How a group of Maya women changed their lives through art and innovation

Mary Anne will tell the story of how in 2009 she and her friend, Jody Slocum, offered to teach a weekend long rug hooking workshop to a group of Maya women in Guatemala. Five years later the two women had co-founded Multicolores, a Guatemalan based non-profit that delivers artistic and personal development workshops to its 50+ members.



In 2015 Multicolores participated in a competition sponsored by the Aspen Institute's Alliance for Artisan Enterprise and the US State Department. The purpose of the competition was to create awareness about the craft sector of the world's economy. Multicolore's rug hookers were among the 15 finalists.

Through visuals and reading excerpts from her upcoming book, Mary Anne will convey the impact of rug money upon the lives of the artists she has come to deeply admire.



# SPEAKERS *continued*

## LSDR PRESENTATION

**Friday 3:30**

**Dessa**

<http://www.doomtree.net/dessa/>



Photo by Bill Phelps

Dessa will discuss her work at the intersection of hip hop, orchestral performance, and the neuroanatomy of romantic connection.

Dessa is a rapper, singer, essayist, and speaker who has built her career bucking traditional genre designations: she's performed at rap festivals, sung with a 100-voice choir, and co-written classical works for orchestra. She tours internationally as a solo musician and as a member of Doomtree, the innovative Minneapolis hip-hop collective. Her most recent album, *Parts of Speech*, debuted at #76 on the Billboard charts; in 2016 she contributed a track to *The Hamilton Mixtape*, which reached #1. She's been a featured speaker for Fortune 500 companies, educational institutions, and charitable organizations--including a keynote presentation for the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. As a writer, Dessa has contributed to *The New York Times Magazine*, MPR, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and literary journals and newspapers around the country. She's currently at work on a book-length collection of literary essays to be published by Dutton Books in 2018. Her new album, *Chime*, will be released on February 23rd.

### **Friday Evening Dessa Performance**

9:30 SHOWTIME

\$20 ticket (includes copy of Dessa's new CD Chime)

Following the LSDR dinner at SOUND, the venue will open their doors to the public for a performance by Dessa with special guest MONAKR. Tickets will be reserved for LSDR attendees to purchase through January 29. If interested, indicate the number of tickets you'd like to purchase on your registration form and a private link to SOUND's box office will be sent to you via separate email. Transportation back to Fitger's following the performance is on your own.

# SPEAKERS *continued*

## LSDR PRESENTATION

**Saturday 9:15**

**Kate Sutton-Johnson**

<http://www.ksjdesignstudio.com/>



Kate Sutton-Johnson is a 3D designer specializing in environmental, exhibit, and stage design for both live events and permanent installations. Kate holds a BFA in set design from the University of North Carolina School

of the Arts, and she was the recipient of the 2007 Ivey Award for Emerging Artist, the 2016 Ivey Award for her design of SWEENEY TODD, and the 2017 Ivey Award for her design of SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION. Her theater design credits include contemporary dramas, classical theater, large-scale musicals, devised work and everything in between. Additionally, Kate works extensively in the museum world, designing exhibits that focus on natural history, anthropology, science, childhood development, ethnography, archaeology and conservation.



### **Mythic Spaces: Leaving our Couches for Other Worlds**

Kate Sutton-Johnson will tell her personal story of how she became a designer working in a myriad of immersive design fields in a session fundamentally about, well, stories. Stories are inherent in everything, even the mundane, but there are places where we still gather, despite so much technology at our fingertips, to experience a story in a more heightened context. In theaters, in museums, in other immersive story-spaces, audiences engage by “filling in the blanks,” imagining what came before and what’s beyond the boundaries of the space as they work to understand a world not quite their own. As technology advances, Kate explores how this is changing the way we tell and witness stories. How can we harness all of this technology to serve essential, human stories in ways that are vital and inspiring?



# SPEAKERS *continued*

## LSDR PRESENTATION

**Saturday 11:00**

**Billie Faircloth, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**

<http://kierantimberlake.com/pages/view/185/billie-faircloth/parent:5>



Billie Faircloth is a partner at KieranTimberlake, an award-winning architecture firm recognized for its environmental ethos, research expertise, and innovative design and planning. As the firm's Research Director, she leads a transdisciplinary group of professionals that leverage research, design, and problem-solving processes from fields as diverse as environmental management, chemical physics, materials science, and architecture. Within this group, Billie fosters collaboration between disciplines, trades, academies, and industries in order to define a relevant problem-solving boundary for the built environment. In her professional and academic research, she is constantly pursuing an answer to the question: "Why do we build the way that we do?"

# SPEAKERS *continued*

## LSDR PRESENTATION

**Saturday 4:00**

**Kao Kalia Yang**

<http://www kaokaliayang com>



**Kao Kalia Yang** is a Hmong-American writer. She is the author of *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (Coffee House Press, 2008), winner of the 2009 Minnesota Book Awards in Creative Nonfiction/Memoir and Readers Choice, and a finalist for the PEN USA Award in Creative Nonfiction and the Asian Literary Award in Nonfiction. Her second book, *The Song Poet* (Metropolitan Books, 2016) won the 2016 Minnesota Book Award in Creative Nonfiction Memoir. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Chautauqua Prize, a PEN USA Award in Nonfiction and the Dayton's Literary Peace Prize. Her third book, *A Map into the World*, will be her debut in children's literature (Carolrhoda Books, Fall of 2019). Yang is also a teacher and a public speaker.