When the phrase “fine arts” is men- tioned, sometimes the first few things that come to mind are paint and sculptures. But the fine arts include many other media, including textiles. One person who special- izes in that particular medium is Laura Strand, a professor in the department of art and design at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Strand received her bachelor’s of fine arts degree from the University of Georgia in Athens and her master’s in fine arts from the University of California at Los Angeles. Although initially interested in painting, the young artist discovered textiles and realized that she could bring to her work the same things she learned as a child from her mother.

“She made our clothes,” Strand said. “She did a lot of things around the house. She had a very, very sophisticated technique. I could make a combination of print and couture so that a textile becomes a person to one person and the intellectual medium that kính that the person can use to make what she had learned as a child.

“Textiles: A Contemplative Language.” One of Strand’s publications is titled “Textiles: A Contemplative Language.” “I always wanted to weave in some sort of large, analyzed, designed work. And I wanted to bring a large field that involves weaving, surface design and all of these things. And I thought of that as a deep investment in my art practice,” Strand said.

The area of textiles in art is a very big field that includes weaving, surface design and executions of fabrics. These works include making things and very difficult and used in such a very different way. It is not like a city. It is a large, analyzed, designed work. And I thought of that as a deep investment in my art practice,” Strand said.

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