

THE KRIS KRINGLE RUG HOOKING CHALLENGE

Gail Dufresne
Lambertville, NJ
ATHA Education Chair



It is with pleasure and pride I announce that I have been appointed to the position of Education Chair for ATHA.

I have always thought that this position holds a great opportunity for furthering the mission of ATHA, which is to promote the art of rug hooking.

Rug hooking is the glue that binds so many of us together, and it became a life line this past year during the pandemic, when many of us, although confined, were able to find a connection through not only our ATHA magazine but through social media as well. I am very active on Facebook, as is Susan Gerrie Naples, who invited many of us to participate in a challenge that involved hooking our own version of a painting created by her friend. The response was amazing, and now we are being treated to different hooked renditions of the same painting on the Facebook page Susan set up for just this purpose. Susan is now bringing this challenge to you! It provides us the opportunity to learn from other participants as well as to create our own distinct version. I think you will really enjoy seeing what has been done to date, and you are invited to join us!

By Susan Gerrie Naples
Nancy Samuels
Southern, CA

As the 2020 Year of the Pandemic wound down, even the luckiest and healthiest of us were feeling the effects of the months of uncertainty, change, and isolation from family and friends. Fortunately, we had our rug hooking to turn to, and while our projects provided solace, we realized that even our beloved pastime was changing month by month. Without the technical and social support we once received from camps, workshops, and local hook-ins with friends, some of us encountered disappointment and difficulties we had not anticipated. Motivation waned. Isolation remained. We asked: How could we support one another during this challenging time? How could we continue to learn? What could we do to reconnect? The answer came through the challenge published in the December/January ATHA magazine, and a friend's Christmas card.

Bruce Horvath, an artist who lives in a

Kris Kringle
An original painting by Bruce Horvath.



small town an hour west of Las Vegas, had used his Kris Kringle painting as his Christmas card. Several recipients, who just happened to be rug hookers, thought it would make a great rug hooking pattern. We knew the pattern could be hooked in our own personal styles, either wide or narrow cuts, in traditional Christmas colors or not. Yarn and/or roving could be incorporated, as could any number and variety of embellishments. After minimal discussion, Bruce authorized us to use his artwork as a pattern.



We emailed a letter and a photo of Kris Kringle to our rug hooking friends, expressing our desire to reconnect with them and explaining our vision: a creative, diverse, positive environment that would provide support and motivation throughout the project's duration. The response was so positive that we immediately created a Facebook Group: **Kris Kringle Rug Hooking Challenge**. We offered four different pattern sizes on linen (20" x 25", 16" x 20", 18" x 18" and 16" x 16".) Within a matter of three weeks, 45 members had joined our group from ten states across the U.S. and Canada.

Then the real work began. We cut and serged backing and drew and mailed patterns for the next several weeks. We encouraged our members to post progress pictures on the FB group page. Some of our fast hookers finished theirs before some of the later joiners had even started. Creativity? Motivation? Diversity? Absolutely!

The contribution of our members has been uplifting and helpful at every turn. We have discussed and shared different approaches to color, texture, design, and hooking techniques. Some of our members have helped us to better navigate the digital and computer world, too. We continue to learn and be inspired as we reconnect with friends both far and near, and make new friends as well. And we will all have either a new holiday decoration or gift to share with a friend or loved one next Christmas. To date there are over fifty rug hookers who have joined in the **Kris Kringle Rug Hooking Challenge**. Perhaps you'll join us!

Take a look at some of the Kris Kringle rugs currently under construction! Look on page 49 for information on obtaining a pattern. **Completed rugs will be shown in the December/January 2022 edition of this magazine!** There is plenty of time for you to get a pattern and hook your own Kris Kringle and join in the fun!



*Carlie Schulz
Lakebay, WA*



*Diane Stoffel
Brewster, MA*



*Catherine Powers
Sacramento, CA*



*Cynthia Norwood
Austin, TX*





*Katherine Perry
Roseville, CA*



*Kitty Adkins
Menifee, CA*



*Mary Kneip
Anaheim, CA*



*Vickie Starr Hedin
Valley Springs, CA*



*Susan Naples
Santa Ana, CA*



*Paula Manning
Fallbrook, CA*



TO ORDER YOUR KRIS KRINGLE PATTERN AND JOIN THE CHALLENGE:

Contact Nancy Samuels, [nancysamuelsdesigns@gmail](mailto:nancysamuelsdesigns@gmail.com)
for pattern ordering information/or for information
on pattern availability.

THIS MAGAZINE'S CONTENT IS COLOR-CODED!



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New Board Members and
Regional
Representatives.
Details coming soon!