

# I N M A N G A L L E R Y

## **Jana Vander Lee *Again and Again*** July 12 – September 7, 2019

*Again and Again* presents tapestries from the 1970s and 80s by American artist **Jana Vander Lee** (b. 1945, Lansing, IL). A weaver who came out of the craft-heavy regional guild system, Vander Lee successfully integrated her tapestries into the male-dominated fine art scene in Houston and her work was widely exhibited in the region during this time. Comprising large and medium scale tapestries, her work was inspired by her early life in the Dutch Calvinist church, travels to the American Southwest to study Navajo weaving, and her deep knowledge of the American Fiber Arts tradition through self-education. An artist, writer, curator and community organizer, Vander Lee was instrumental in organizing important exhibitions introducing fiber art into the mainstream fine art scene in Houston. Vander Lee suffered loss of her eyesight in the mid-90s but has recently regained some sight, allowing her to begin her practice anew. Inman Gallery is pleased to announce our representation of Jana Vander Lee with this exhibition.

**Jana Vander Lee** (born 1945, Lansing, IL), an American fiber artist, earned her BA from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, in 1967 and soon after moved to Houston, TX, where she began her career as an artist, educator, writer, and curator. Her work is inspired by her early life in the Dutch Calvinist church, her travels to the American Southwest to study Navajo weaving, and her deep knowledge of the American Fiber Arts tradition through self-education.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Vander Lee exhibited widely in the region, including at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo, TX (1999); Art League Houston, Houston, TX (1986, 1987, 1988, 1997, 1998); DiverseWorks, Houston, TX (1984, 1996, 1997); Museum of East Texas, Lufkin, TX (1987); Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX (1979, 1982, 1984, 1986); and Blaffer Gallery at the University of Houston (1980). She was also instrumental in organizing exhibitions introducing fiber art into the mainstream fine art scene in Houston, most notably *American Fiber Art: A New Definition* at Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston in 1980 and *American Fiber: A New Aesthetic* at DiverseWorks in 1984.

Her work can be found in the public collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; the Houston Public Library, Houston, TX; and Savaria Muzeum, Szombathely, Hungary. In the mid-1990s, Vander Lee lost her eyesight, a condition that lasted nearly two decades. Having recently regained her sight, the artist has reengaged with her practice and she is now making new work for the first time since the 90s.

Vander Lee lives and works in Chicago, IL.