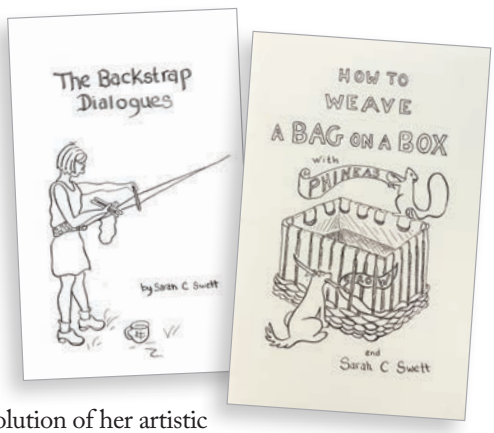
SECRETS OF SPINNING, WEAVING, AND KNITTING IN THE PERUVIAN HIGHLANDS

by Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez
and the Weavers of the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco

Known primarily as weavers, many Andean artisans learn to spin (and spin copiously!) at an early age, shift their focus to weaving and other employment during midlife, and rededicate themselves to spinning in their later years.

Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez's new book reveals the secrets of Cusqueñan artisans and makes Andean textile traditions accessible to a global audience. Step-by-step instructions and detailed photographs showcase handspinning techniques including suspended and supported spinning on a *pushka* (spindle), fiber preparation and management, and skeining and plying yarn. Hints and tips, plus technique variations practiced by different Andean communities, provide depth and prove that there's more than one way to spin yarn.

Loveland, Colorado: Thrums Books, 2017. Paperback, 144 pages, $24.95. ISBN 9780998452357. www.thrumsbooks.com



THE BACKSTRAP DIALOGUES *and* HOW TO WEAVE A BAG ON A BOX

by Sarah C. Swett

Fiber artist and storyteller Sarah Swett shares an intimate look inside her creative process in these pen-and-ink comics. The maker's hand directs every detail of these zines, which chronicle her artistic practice through lively sketched characters and hand-lettered pages. Lighthearted but practical, each illustrated page describes the evolution of her artistic journey as she spins her own yarns and weaves simple cloth on simple looms. The booklets take flights of fancy—your teachers for box weaving are a dog and a squirrel—but include specific, helpful directions for weaving as Swett does.

Although both of these zines center on weaving, Swett remains very much a handspinner. As she exclaims in *The Backstrap Dialogues*, "And it's about YARN—yarn and light and nothing more."

Moscow, Idaho: Sarah C. Swett. *The Backstrap Dialogues*, 2017. Saddle-stitched, 56 pages, $17. *How to Weave a Bag on a Box*, 2015. Pamphlet-stitched, 20 pages, $10. Both available as PDF. www.afieldguidetoneedlework.com

A NEW SPIN ON COLOR

by Alanna Wilcox

Inspired by a braid of hand-dyed top, Alanna Wilcox explored every way she could think of to approach the brightly colored fiber. The result is her new book of 20 ways to spin any colorway of top, demonstrated through illustrations, step-by-step photographs, and text. In addition to color management techniques, the book explores how staple length, predrafting, and finishing affect the final appearance of the color. Wilcox walks you through planning a project and reveals what happens if you mix braids or blend colors with a hackle, combs, or handcards. Based on her work toward a Master Spinner certificate, Wilcox has created a thorough, clearly documented book.

Rochester, New York: Alanna Wilcox, 2017. Paperback, 142 pages, $38. ISBN 9780999032800. Also available as PDF. www.alannawilcox.com

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