

# ArtStory

Pursuing quality of life.

## Patti Morgan

**Genre:**  
Fiber Art

### Associations & Awards:

Alpaca and Llama Show Association –  
Grand Champion 1998 and  
multiple grand champions since

Arkansas City Art Festival

Prairie Fest

Lindsborg Hyllingfest

Chaffee County Art Open – 2nd Place

*"The llamas and alpacas have such beautiful wool, it's really enjoyable to take it and make something. Sometimes I make something really cool and sometimes it's a flop, but it's really fun just the same."*

*–Patti Morgan*

**Y**ou don't find many painters that make their own brushes and mix their own paint. Not many sculptors dig up their own clay. Patti Morgan, however, not only creates fiber art, she raises the animals and produces the wool that serves as the backbone for her work.

Ten years ago, Morgan's life changed when she received her first llama as a Christmas present from her husband, Mike. Her life has since grown to revolve around the docile creatures. She quit her job as a chemist to concentrate on raising, boarding and breeding the animals and growing her herd to include 29 llamas, 10 alpacas and 14 miniature donkeys. Morgan also shears the llama and alpaca wool, treats it, spins it, weaves it, knits it, crochets it, felts it and sells it.

Felting is a process by which the wool is combed through until it all runs in the same direction. Squares of the material are then layered on top of each other in criss-cross patterns. Using soap and water, the wool is rubbed until it sticks together. Morgan has felted an endless list of items and apparel including hats, shoes, wall hangings, pictures and afghans. "The llamas and alpacas have such beautiful wool, it's



really enjoyable to take it and make something. Sometimes I make something really cool and sometimes it's a flop, but it's really fun just the same."

Morgan Farms operates in two locations. First being their native homeland of Kansas where the llamas spend the winters braving the elements, which is actually an enjoyable climate for them. May through September, they take the herd west to Colorado where the weather is milder.

The llamas' demeanor is what appeals most to Morgan. "They're very docile and sweet. They're not like dogs, they won't just run up to you. They're on their own time, more like a cat. They have a personality, every one of them, of their own."

