

Second Annual Vogue Knitting LIVE! Event

By *Tabbethia Haubold*

The place to be, from January 14 to 16, 2012, was in Midtown Manhattan, at the newly redesigned Hilton New York, the site of the second annual Vogue Knitting LIVE! event. For those in the industry, it isn't uncommon to pack up the animals and travel off to a show, be it in a neighboring area, should we be lucky enough, or halfway across the United States. For many of us, the fiber festivals we frequent are the mere addition of our fiber products, tucked away along with our animals, for a somewhat similar venue. Both usually have a destination point, often remote, of bucolic fields toting facilities under cover for the two-legged and four-legged kind alike. Rustic, simple accommodations that lend an air of warmth and comfort, no matter what time of year, for those of us that love the land and our fibered friends.

Trade all that in and leave the animals behind for the fast paced, high energy

heart of New York City. Take luxurious accommodations, an extra big dose of yarn and fiber goods, as well as those shopping for it, a myriad of workshops, throw in a dash of fashion and fun and you have an amazing three day event – Vogue Knitting LIVE!

Vogue Knitting, a quarterly magazine, has set the bar for knitting, working with

13th), spanning two floors of the Hilton and bringing it alive with color and texture, adorned with natural fibers and synthetic wonders, a brilliance that generated enthusiasm and excitement. The biggest names in the yarn industry were there – Tahki, Stacy Charles, Skacel, Rowan and Lion Brand Yarn Company to name a few. Battenkill Fibers of New York and Green Mountain Spinnery from Vermont represented the fiber mill industry. Several yarn stores from the New York City area such as String, The Yarn Company and Knitty City were there to support the local event as well. We (Long Island Livestock Company) were proud



A small selection of the many vendors that took part in the Vogue Knitting LIVE! weekend



The Camelid Quarterly



the biggest and most talented names in fashion today, gracing its pages with what's new and what's next. Vogue Knitting LIVE premiered in January of 2010 with a subsequent event held in Los Angeles, California later that Fall. "For more than 25 years, Vogue Knitting has brought the best of fashion knitting to our dedicated readers. Now we're inviting them to experience Vogue Knitting as never before – live and in person!" says Trisha Malcolm, Editor in Chief of Vogue Knitting. Over seventy vendors moved in on Friday (January

to be there, not only encouraging the "buy local" movement but also representing the camelid community. Representing those of us that have chosen a lifestyle from which the entire foundation of the natural fiber industry is built. Our company's genuine homestead yarns utilize only fibers that are either from our own animals or from animals that I shear. As a professional shearer my travels take me throughout



My work as a professional shearer allows me to visit breeders up and down the Eastern coast

most of the east coast, from Vermont to Georgia, and inland as well, totaling over a thousand animals in a three month season. Fiber, wool and mohair are the by-products from the animals I work with. Long Island Livestock Company uses this fiber in the creation of our own yarns. These yarns “Put a Face with the Fiber” and, through the hand knit garments they make, connect people to the animals we love.

Vogue Knitting LIVE! was a perfect event that lent itself to creating a platform in which conversation and education was primary. The usual barrage of “Do they spit?” questions were replaced by inquiries of fiber types, identifying various breeds, learning about dehairing and understanding just how much or how little fiber we actually get from any one animal in a given year. I think what made us smile the most was just how much the shoppers marveled at and commented upon the array of natural colors our yarns boast. Of course, we in the industry know all too well just how beautiful they can be. I think it is misguided to assume that just because one knits (or crochets, weaves, spins, felts, etc.) they know all there is to know about fibers. I am always pleasantly surprised and grateful to be reminded of that and welcome the opportunity to share and educate.

In addition to our yarns, our booth was warmly decorated with other products such as assorted rovings, our line of handbags using Cotswold wool and our llama fiber bedding line. There was also a wide array of notions such as our Shepherdess line of lanolin bath and beauty products, handcrafted stitch markers and yarn bowls. Shoppers delighted in the colorful pictures of our animals that were lovingly displayed and many a smile came from our wedding picture that hung above our register, with “Steeler” and “Pfeifen”, two of our llamas, fully dressed along side us as a bride and groom.



Benny Migs Photo

Even the weary shopper had fun taking a load off their feet in our full-sized, hand felted “llama chair”!



A full house for one of the many fashion shows

If you weren't shopping you were either stage-side for the nonstop fashion shows that went on throughout the weekend – twelve to be exact, or perhaps you were taking in a free lecture or demonstration. Or maybe you were satisfying your hunger for yarn at the Yarn Tasting Lounge, meeting an author at the many book signings available or you were taking advantage of one of the many classes offered. Vogue Knitting LIVE! attendees had the opportunity to pre-register for over fifty different classes from top industry professionals. Names such as Brandon Mably, Clara Parkes, Debbie Bliss, Jared Flood, Kaffe Fassett, Maggie Jackson, Nicky Epstein and Rosemary Drysdale offered workshops to choose from. Topics covered things such as garment design, stitch techniques, shaping and construction, finishing, projects and patterns, color work, lacework, crocheting, socks and fiber.



This full-sized, hand felted llama chair provided a brief respite to many VKL visitors



The outstanding array of workshops were well attended throughout the event.

The enthusiasm and excitement did not stop there! Evening activities raised tens of thousands of dollars at the Cocktail Reception and LIVE Charity Auction to support The Heart Truth, a national awareness campaign for women and heart disease. All in all, the three days of classes and two days of marketplace, saw over 6,000 attendees from all over the world. The pace was fast and furious, but there was a sense of unity and camaraderie, no matter what aspect of the industry you were from and no matter how large or how small. Come to Chicago this October where the team at Vogue Knitting will do it all again in the Windy City, October 26 – 28, 2012 or wait until January 2013 when they will be back in New York City once again.

About the Author

Tabbitha Haubold-Magee, of Long Island Livestock Company, resides in Yaphank, NY on a seventeen acre fiber farm that is home to a herd of twenty something llamas, along with alpaca, sheep, angora goats, an angora rabbit and a pot belly pig. With a BS in Animal Science and an original love affair with horses she began raising llamas in 1997 and started showing in 2001 on the local, regional and national level. She breeds her llamas with fiber, form and function in mind and bold titles in halter, performance and fleece. An educator by nature, she uses her animals in educational programs for both youth and adults in various venues. When she is not busy working with the kids or the llamas, she has an extensive shearing business that involves over one thousand animals and has her traveling from Vermont to Georgia and many places in between.



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