

Lynne Munro

– Apprentice Weaver

When I walked into my first weaving lesson one year ago I never guessed what a change it would make in my life. Here was an environment different from anything I had experienced before. Women working together, discussing feminist issues together and supporting one another. I learned about more women's art than I knew existed. I am now in the process of realizing a new ambition— that of artist and tapestry weaver. To have this new goal at 36 years of age is truly exciting, particularly since being an artist was something I have never even considered for myself.

The decision to begin an 18 month apprenticeship in tapestry weaving has been one of the most positive steps I have ever taken. At first I was full of apprehension and guilt. I had been at home for the past 11 years and now I would be away 4 full days a week. How would my family react? Would I be leaving my children alone too much? Would I be able to accept the challenge and succeed? Did I even have the right to want something for myself—

quite separate from the wants of my husband and children? But I knew I wanted to at least give it a try and the benefits have been enormous for us all. I am developing by doing something for myself and my children are developing by having the opportunity to do something for themselves. As I have two young daughters, my interest in feminist issues has filtered down to them and influenced their outlook on their future as women. My husband benefits from my being generally a more positive and interesting woman with new ideas of my own.

I have had no formal art training but because of the personal encouragement of my weaving instructor and the supportive environment of the studio I have the courage to work at my art. I am cautious and shy to put my ideas and drawings on the paper but each time it becomes a little easier. No longer am I merely an extension of my husband and children. I have my own identity!

