During the Fall 2013 I took a course, Historic Textiles. At the end of the term the professor assigned a project where students were to make an artwork patterned after one of the Fiber Artist studied. I chose Ed Rossbach, an American Fiber Artist, born in Chicago, Illinois in 1914 and died on October 7, 2002.

I was impressed with Ed Rossbach, primarily because he had a MA in Art Education from Columbia University in New York City, and a MFA in Ceramics and Weaving from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Also, because he began his career in ceramics and weaving in the 1940s, but evolved into basket making. However, he is best known for his innovative and playful baskets and rugs made from nontraditional materials.

My artwork (Fiber Rug) was inspired by Mr. Rossbach’s Homage to John Glenn, 1962; cotton; double weave pickup rug. I dyed cotton fabric with MX Dyes, cut it into one-inch strips, wrapped and coiled the strips around cotton clothesline rope, and zigzagged the coils in place. The finish piece resembles Ed Rossbach’s Homage to John Glenn rug in both size (48.25 by 29.5 inches) and colors.