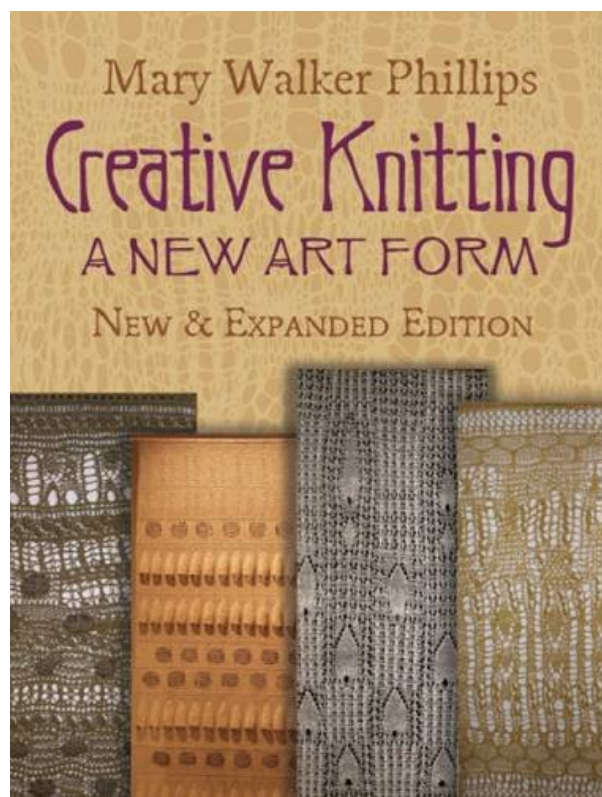
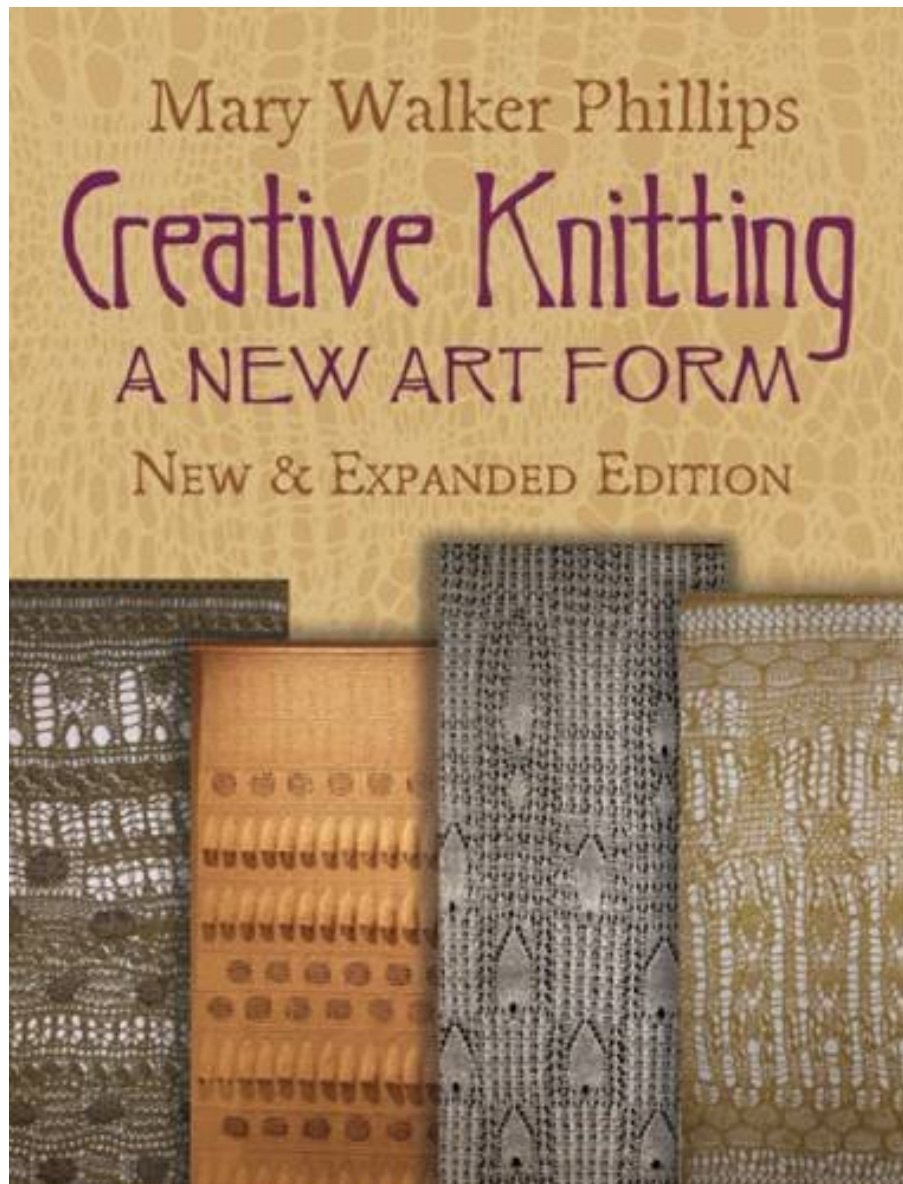


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## **About the Author**

American artist, author, and teacher Mary Walker Phillips (1923–2007) elevated knitting to an art form. Her creations are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago, and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

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The first book to introduce knitting as an art form, this classic guide has been newly revised and expanded to offer even more suggestions and inspiration. Mary Walker Phillips shows how to use traditional stitches in original ways to produce highly decorative creations rather than strictly functional items. Scores of examples demonstrate methods for taking basic knitting skills into new and rewarding directions.

Clear, easy-to-follow diagrams and color photos supplement the text. In addition to serving as practical guides, the illustrations offer a vast gallery of ideas. Many of the pictures are accompanied by detailed analyses that provide a foundation for experimentation. Phillips discusses the use of a wide range of nontraditional materials, including linen, silk, and leather. A chapter on the history of knitting offers insights into the nature of the craft as well as further sources of creative vision.

- Sales Rank: #1083576 in Books
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- Released on: 2013-01-24
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- Dimensions: 10.80" h x .50" w x 8.30" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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American artist, author, and teacher Mary Walker Phillips (1923–2007) elevated knitting to an art form. Her creations are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago, and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

## Most helpful customer reviews

33 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

Expanded Edition of Pioneering Textile Artist's Classic Work

By Lynne E.

This expanded edition of Mary Walker Phillips' CREATIVE KNITTING is a much, much better book than the original hardcover (published in 1971). The hardcover had only 4 full-color pages, while this paperback has at least 51! The text and knitting diagrams appear to be unchanged, but it's nice to see the knitted hangings in color, even though many were executed in neutral-colored yarns.

This book is not a book for every knitter. It's a book for textile artists. It explains how to knit decorative wall hangings with non-rectangular shapes and irregularly (and artistically) placed holes, elongated rows, bobbles, and beads. It's a book that describes stitch techniques that are far advanced beyond ordinary lace knitting.

The wall hangings shown in the book may not be terribly exciting to look at--after all, textile artists like

Phillips were barely recognized in 1971--but the techniques Phillips used to create those hangings are timeless. Her techniques should be of particular interest to those knitters who always want to understand how a complicated knit stitch, decorative design element, or fabric was created.

The book also includes a brief history of knitting, illustrated with some surviving examples of 12th to 19th century knitting. It has an index, and a somewhat dated but still useful bibliography. Phillips, who passed away in 2007, was described in a New York Times obituary as "one of the two or three most influential knitters of the second half of the 20th century." Examples of her work, some of which are discussed in this book, are to be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

20 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Creativity

By linnaea

I own the original format of this book. Yes, it's true no flash, no eye candy and few if any colour photos. But here's the deal: when you get your hands on a book like this and you see it for the historical knitting value and not for the pretty pictures and hand holding directions....you are allowed to explore, design, and create something wonderful. Think of this book, as if you are going from picture books to novels. You learn with novels to create your own pictures. Creative Knitting is just that: a source to help inspire you to create something of your own.

27 of 36 people found the following review helpful.

not worth buying - spend your money elsewhere

By brrejy

I believe that fibre is (and can be) used as an art form - and I appreciate many different fibre art works and forms.

In fact, I rarely dislike fibre art or fibre art books; in fact I generally appreciate and often love them.

This book is the exception; not worth buying (or even reading) IMO.

I found nothing new - which is often OK - but not this time - not OK this time.

And it's mostly black and white - which is often OK - but not this time.

Why not this time?

Because it's bland and boring.

This book is bland and boring and provides nothing new - and offers no inspiration, IMO.

Spend your money elsewhere - add to your fibre stash or put it in the bank or buy another tool or book - but don't make the same mistake I did...

I expected some eye candy, and/or some inspiration, and/or perhaps something new or different... but, no, not here - not this book.

Review edited to add the following:

I am a fibre artist that has no problem saying that I get inspiration from many things (nature (beautiful coloured fall leaves or bare branches against snow, for example) - including things that are more "eye candy", such as a jar of colourful buttons).

But, I found no inspiration from this book, which was quite a let down as I had pre-ordered this book based on recommendations from the first printing - found this book very disappointing.

I do find inspiration from some of the following books, currently here on Amazon:

"A Treasury of Knitting Patterns"

"A Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns"

"A Third Treasury of Knitting Patterns"

...all by Barbara Walker, and all originally published in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

I've also found inspiration from her "Mosaic Knitting" book.

And another good book, which was published years ago (1930's or 1940's I think), is "Mary Thomas's Book of Knitting Patterns".

These are just a few "old" books that still hold their value in today's fibre arts community.

While many "old" books are still very relevant and extremely inspirational, not all "old" books can withstand time; this book did not withstand time IMO - it does not stand up to today's standards for information or inspiration.

I stand by my original review: spend your money elsewhere (or save it for another day).

See all 14 customer reviews...

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