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## Transcript

### Sericin Silkworks - Vendor

Edy: Okay, perfect. Welcome Tabi. Thank you for joining us on the Virtual Vendors Spotlight. And you've been with us for quite a while through the Seminars over the number of years and I'm really glad that you're able to join us this year. Yeah, so if you want to introduce yourself and what your business is all about, then we'll start there.

Tabi: Okay. Well, first of all, thank you very much for putting all this together. I know it's a lot of work to do video and video editing. Happy to be a part of it. Yeah, it's been 12, no I guess 2012 was my first OHS. My name is Tabi Ferguson. I've been running Sericin Silkworks since then and I specialise in silk and silk blends for spinning and also a cloud luxury fibres. Yeah.

Edy: Cool, cool. So what, what drew you to silk?

Tabi: A number of things, I've always liked really fine fibres and the dexterity and I just enjoy the feel of them. And also, it's something that's different from all the wonderful fibres that we have in Ontario. I really love our home grown wools and mohairs and all those things. So this was just something a little bit different from what other people were offering. And I also love putting those two things together.

Edy: Yes. And you, yeah. I love your stuff too, it's awesome. So what is your hidden gem for the weekend?

Tabi: The hidden gem for the, well, it's a bit tricky, because all of the silks and silk blends are a little bit different. I don't have anything particularly lined up, special for the weekend other than having my usual assortment. So I just wanted to take a few minutes to talk about- normally when somebody comes into the booth, and they haven't spun silk before or if they haven't had the opportunity to take the workshop. I see you've got Rachel Smith lined up for a silk workshop for the weekend, so that's really cool, and I might even sign in on that one. But I wanted to give a very, very quick rundown for people who were new to it, because that's what I normally do in a booth. So normally when somebody comes in and they're used to typically spinning wool and they're looking for something with silk. So I usually point them to my 50/50 silk blends and this year I have the silk camel blend and I have some silk yak and some silk cashmere but not a lot of that. And so the 50/50 gives you a little bit more of that bouncy fibre that you're used to in a wool but of course it's much finer. So in terms of the dyeing, I'll show you the natural. So hopefully that's coming up. So we have on the bottom is the, what I call the white camel silk, the middle is the brown camel silk and the top is actually a white cashmere.

Edy: Maybe bring it a little closer to the camera there.

Tabi: There you go, ah.

Edy: That's a little bit better, yeah.

Tabi: A little bit better?

Edy: Yeah.

Tabi: And this is the problem with silk is it's so darn reflective. And we have a very reflective day out, so this is normally a problem for me in photographing. So I'm going to show you what this looks like on a dye in the same dye lot. So this one is the dark 50/50 and this one is the light 50/50 in the silk camel. So it's exactly the same colour way in the same pot at the same time. And you can see they come out differently. So with the blends I usually do a very light, open hand when I'm spinning. I personally spin point of contact and you really want to back off your brake. And the reason why you want to have the open hand is because those two fibres would like to flow together because normally the silk's going to dominate and you're going to end up with a bunch of fluffy stuff back in your hand. So an open hand, a nice light touch and these are very fine fibres so you're spinning a very fine yarn. So if you're comfortable with a 50/50 and you want to try a hundred percent silk, then we have the Tussah silk and the Bombyx silk, which are just two different types of silk moths. The Tussah silk tends to be a little more grippy and a little more forgiving, so that's what I normally recommend people try first. And then the Bombyx silk, which is also called Mulberry silk because that's what the Bombyx silk moth eats is Mulberry leaves. It's the shiny, shiny one and people find it very slippery. So I typically recommend stripping it down or only having a small bit in your hand. You can do over the fold or whatever, but again next to no brake and a very light hand. So the Tussah, this again the same colour way, and you'll really see how the reflection- Watch the reflection right now. So, Tussah is this one, same colour way. And the Bombyx is this one so you can see the difference there.

Edy: Yeah.

Tabi: So that's normally what I do for my silk and silk blends. There'll probably be a few batts and the usual assortment.

Edy: Awesome. Very cool. This is exciting, so thank you very much. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Tabi: Yeah. So the interesting thing about going virtual this year is this'll be my first time selling fibre online, because, quite honestly you guys don't leave me with any. Certainly not after the Seminar. Thank you but. So this'll be new for me and for you guys. So I normally sell on Etsy and the links will all be on the website on our, sorry, on the OHS website. So you'll see those there, I'm going to set up a special code, a discount code for the Seminar and that will be listed up there as well, called Seminar 21. And I'm also going to reduce the shipping because as you've probably discovered, Canadian shipping is a bit expensive, even for tiny things. So we'll, we'll go with that and hopefully that works out for everybody.

Edy: Right, that's awesome. Thank you so much for, we appreciate the discounts. So that's, that's cool. So thank you so much for your time. I think that's, I think we're good, if you're okay, we're okay. So thank you very much for your time, I'm really looking forward to seeing you online.

Tabi: I'm looking forward to seeing everybody in person.

Edy: I know, oh, yeah, maybe next year, maybe next year. So thank you so much Tabi for your time, I really appreciate it. And we'll see you soon.

Tabi: Okay, thanks.

Edy: Thanks.