

# Fiber Optix: Recent Work

Virtual Opening - April 18, 2020

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[www.fiberoptixart.com](http://www.fiberoptixart.com)

Artwork on Display  
Shapeshifter, 2019

## Q+A with Cher Cartwright

### What is your creative space like? Can you show us around?

My house is basically a rancher with a half basement. My studio is in the basement, in what the previous owners used as a TV or rec room. Despite it being completely underground, there is some natural light coming from a glass door out to a subterranean patio. Also I installed rows of halogen lights on the ceiling and painted the walls white to make the space as bright as possible. My sewing table faces the design wall at the far end of my space, with a cutting table behind it and a row of Ikea shelves on the side for my fabric. In a little bonus space I have a 4' x 6' homemade table padded on the top for ironing, with three shelves on which I store smaller quilts and all sorts of equipment for doing direct application dyeing. Finally, there is a rather large bathroom downstairs I use for dyeing with a good old fashioned vinyl floor that wipes up easily if any dye splatters on it.

### What artists influence you?

Categorically, Nancy Crow is by far my biggest influence as a quilt maker. I knew nothing about art theory when I first took a class from her, and she taught me so much about making art, especially in terms of color. I also rely on what I learned from Nancy in terms of my technical approach to quilt making. I employ the improvisational piecing methods I learned from her whenever I work on a quilt top. However, at times I have combined those techniques with hand made templates I learned to make and use in a class with Ruth McDowell. I work only with fabric I dye myself. I learned immersion dyeing from the late Liz Axford and surface application from Ann Johnston and Sue Benner.

I tend to look to painters for artistic inspiration. Over the years I have been influenced by Hundertwasser, Cezanne, Bonnard, Joan Mitchell, Mark Bradford and others.

### How are you staying busy during social distancing? Can you recommend any projects to our opening's virtual guests?

I am spending this time of social isolation walking my dogs, cooking, cleaning, reading, watching Friends reruns and, of course, quilting.