

# Fiber Optix: Recent Work

Virtual Opening - April 18, 2020

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

Artwork on Display

Elle, 2014

Color Squared, 2020

Split, 2019

## Q+A with Ellin Larimer

**Tell us about first learning to sew. Who did you learn from? How old were you?**

I learned to use a sewing machine as I recovered from the MUMPS when I was eight and a half years old. Mother had a White treadle machine and I made a lot of clothes on it until I bought my own new electric Kenmore with my first paycheck thirteen years later. After the very basics, starting and stopping, it was decided I would learn to make a pair of pajamas. The fabric was a light green cotton crepe and they were trimmed with bright green bias tape. The next item was a pink and white print dress. Working too fast and figuring I knew all I needed to know, the pattern piece for the back of the top was placed on the selvedge edge instead of the fold, so that dress had a seam down the center of the back that looked quite weird.

**What is your creative space like?**

I moved to a very fine CCRC seven years ago. I had been widowed a few years earlier. So I left a house that had a beautiful creative designing and dyeing space and moved to a two bedroom apartment with just under 1300 sq. feet. The smaller bedroom became my creative space. I purchased Builders Board and had maintenance mount it on two of the walls. Most of this I covered with "Warm and White" batting to make the design process easier. I had twelve spot lights installed down the center of the ceiling. I also had the doors removed from the closet and shelves installed on the wall to hold all my dyed fabric.

Before I became a Quilt Artist I did a lot of sewing and tailoring, so several houses prior, I had a large cutting table built for that sewing space. It is on castors and has a leaf that can be raised or lowered. It takes up 6 ft. x 40 inches of space in the middle of this room. My ironing board is always "up" and has a 25" x 60" padded ironing space resting on top of it. I also have a sewing cabinet that holds drawers of thread and sewing notions as well as supporting my newest Bernina that accommodates my kind of quilting.

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

Living in a CCRC and in Seattle, not far from Kirkland where the first Covid19 cases were found, as well as the first deaths resulted, our management has had us in lock down forever! They also want the staff to be masked all the time, as well as Residents if they are passing through the building, shopping for groceries. Otherwise we are behind closed doors. So there has been a big push to make masks for all these people. I'm anxious to stop and do something fun with all my new scraps.