

Fiber Optix: Recent Work

Virtual Opening - April 18, 2020



www.fiberoptixart.com

Artwork on Display

Michelle O's Hula

Hoop, 2020

Otter, 2019

Q+A with Julie Sevilla Drake

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

When we moved from Alaska to the Lower 48 a few years ago, we found a house that had a big studio space over the garage. Heaven! Before that, I'd always sewn in an extra bedroom. Now, besides my sewing machine, I have room for three bakers' racks of hand-dyed fabrics, an enormous cutting table, several 8-foot tall design walls. Oh, yeah---and a longarm quilting machine!! On the west end of the studio there's a wall of windows and a small balcony. Here, my cat sleeps in the sun all day and the hummingbirds visit the feeders. My friend gave me a comfy chair, so I sit at these windows and daydream. I also have a small dye studio in the cellar. I'm pretty lucky.

What artists influence you?

I love art, and I love to travel—which means I love to travel for art! I once scheduled a long layover in London in order to see Matisse's cut-outs; another time, I rigged a layover in NYC to see the Whitney Biennial. Some of my favorite modern artists—painters and sculptors whose work continues to inspire me—are Alvin Amason, Joan Miro, Nancy Crow, Matisse, Mark Bradford, Ellsworth Kelly, Julie Speidel, Picasso, Joan Mitchell, Mark Rothko, Barbara Straker James, Guy Anderson, Henry Moore, Nicholas Galanin, Barbara Hepworth, Lorser Feitelson, Richard Diebenkorn, Natalia Goncharova, Bill Holm, David Nash...the list goes on and on. And that's just artists working since 1900!

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

The physical distancing required during the current pandemic has not really rocked my world. I already spend much of my time alone, plus my husband and I are real homebodies. We live on ten acres, on a small island that offers all sorts of opportunities to be out in nature, from deep forests to ocean beaches. I spend much of each day outdoors.

I do miss having friends and family over for supper, though, so I'm working on some new recipes to wow them in the future. Just like in a normal Spring, I'm cooking food we put up last fall: berries, squash, shrimp, salmon, jellies, pickles. I've got a very old sourdough starter, and I've been baking bread. I used to give a lot of my bread away; lately I've been just giving the starter away. For whatever reason, that feels safer. And, since losing your sense of smell is a symptom of Covid-19, people can take a sniff of that funky mother and know immediately if they're healthy!