

Small Investments Fibres By Beth Abbott



After 33 years as a high school teacher Beth turned her direction to Fibre Art as a new career. Beth earned her Master Spinner certificate in 1990, and her In-depth Study was published as a book in 2001. Icelandic Fleece - A Fibre for All Reasons is the only complete study of the Icelandic fleece and its spinning qualities available in English. As a recognized teacher of the art of spinning, Beth has instilled in hundreds of students a love of colour and texture and luxury fibres.

Now Beth is exploring colour and texture through fibre art - creating new work with fabrics and embellishments to satisfy her need to create and make a statement. After studying through

workshops for at least 30 years, Beth graduated in 2008 from the Textile Arts certificate program at St. Lawrence College, and moved out to explore new directions in the field of fibre art and quilting.

The work on display shows a little of the variety of Beth's work, with the interplay of colours always being the focus to create the mood of the piece. While she loves all colours, colour schemes which are almost complementary are the most exciting. Many of the fabrics are hand dyed or wonderful batiks, occasionally embellished with embroidery and beads to accentuate the colours and the feeling of the piece.

Beth is still exploring and considers herself still a “work in progress”, a “perpetual learner”. This comes from a thirst for “knowing how it is done” and a healthy respect for those who have come before us and worked their creativity by hand. She feels these skills need to continue to be developed as part of our creative work or they will be lost. Because she enjoys experimenting, she continues to learn new techniques and ideas in quilting and fibre art - this is when she feels most creative and enthusiastic.

Beth’s teaching is still a part of her life as she shares her expertise and experience to encourage students to explore on their own. Beth offers workshops both privately and with guilds in quilting colour and design, embroidery, and spinning. She also writes regularly for spinning magazines.