

Surface Design Association: North Peninsula Chapter

ART AS GIFTS

Introducing

DONNA LEE DOWDNEY

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND TEXTILE & MIXED MEDIA ARTIST

Donna Lee Dowdney, whose mixed media and acrylic pouring art are on view through Dec. 31 at the “Art as Gifts” walk-by exhibit of the Surface Design Association at Tyler and Lawrence in Port Townsend, currently works with fabric, especially fabric printed with designs she’s created with pours on canvas.

Formerly a Silicon Valley technical communications educator, Dowdney retired to Bainbridge Island in 2005.

“After several years of submerging myself in the fast-paced technical world, I discovered an unfulfilled longing for blue and green and being in nature,” she explains. “Now I create with fabrics, yarns, and beads. I transfer designs using dye, paint, or stamps, and then sew by machine and by hand. I add sparkle, color, and movement with beads, mirrors, ribbons, and threads.”

A native of the Chicago area, Dowdney says she stuffed floor-to-ceiling shelves in her childhood home’s basement with art supplies, but college, graduate school, career, and worldwide travels sent her in different directions for 50 years. The move to the Kitsap Peninsula gave her the opportunity to pursue classes with the Gail Harker Center for Creative Arts, now in La Conner, and led to the transition to textile and mixed media art. Now more than 80 of her pieces have been shown in venues ranging from regional SDA shows, including the just-concluded “Rhythm of Light” at the nationally recognized Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum in La Conner and “Farm. Fresh. Art.” at the Mead Werks at Wilderbee Farm. Her work has also been seen at Sequim Museum and Arts, Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network (BARN), in western Washington museums, the Washington State Convention Center, and galleries in Port Townsend, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge, as well as in hospitals, businesses, retail stores, and in Bainbridge Island Studio Tours. For more information or to purchase a piece shown in the SDA Fiber Habit window, see www.donnaleedowdney.com.

Besides the North Peninsula SDA chapter, Dowdney is active in the Contemporary QuiltArt Association, Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network, Studio Art Quilt Associates, the Bainbridge Island Modern Quilt Guild, and Bainbridge Business Connection.

Dowdney’s “Art as Gifts” pieces, as well as artwork created by more than a dozen other regional artists, are also available by visiting the SDA window on Saturdays through mid-December during the Port Townsend Farmers Market, where the SDA chapter will have an information table. Payment is via cash, local check or PayPal. For more information, see www.sda-np.com.

