

Kimmi Kerns is Havenwyld Ceramics



Kimmi meets Governor Inslee and presents a Lighthouse Tile she made as a commemoration of his visit to Westport to see our lighthouse in 2017.

Artists statement by Kimmi Kerns:

After a career in the high stress 24-7 computer industry, I was able to turn my passion for art into a reality when I moved to Washington State in 2003.

How did I discover the Harbor? My husband and I had gone on a West Coast road trip from Southern California to Canada in 1999, thinking that we wanted to live 'somewhere on the coast between Santa Barbara, CA and the Canadian border'. One of the nights, we stayed at Hoquiam Castle and really loved the area so we decided to make the move, first living in Aberdeen and then in Westport. We just bought 5 acres on Harstine Island, and now we divide our time between there and the Harbor.

As with most artists, I dabbled in many media including drawing, acrylic painting, needlepoint, sewing, stained glass, various paper arts

and ceramics.

I chose ceramics as my art form because I'm a child at heart – I still love to play in the 'mud' – and because it combines my love of painting and the need to work with my hands. I never forgot the ceramics class I took in 5th grade – watching dull gray glazes turn into beautiful blues and yellows coming out of the kiln. I still have the sculptures I made, sometimes displaying them in my booth. I have wheel thrown clay, but I prefer to use hand-building techniques on my work. Specifically, most of my work is ceramic tile based. For me, art and color are therapy, so my pieces are usually brightly colored and fun. I enjoy creating works to beautify home and garden spaces and that make you smile.

My designs are influenced by the clean, classic designs of the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and

Egypt, civilizations which used ceramic tile extensively to beautify their surroundings. I am also captivated by Art Nouveau period designs with their flowing lines and curved forms. However, since moving to Westport in 2007, I find myself making beach-themed designs and lots of FISH – particularly crabs, starfish and salmon!

And lately, I have been recycling materials like wood, metal and plastics, and incorporating them with my ceramic pieces.



Although I have taken numerous art classes at University level, I don't have an art degree. In ceramics, trial and error are the best teachers and I have been working in clay for over 20 years.

Some highlights of my art career so far include being featured in the 2016 July/August issue of *Washington Coast Magazine* and having my colorful fish trivets mentioned in *Coastal Living Magazine* in 2012. I also have a ceramic 'story pole' in the Westport Winery sculpture garden honoring their wine 'Captain Gray Gewürztraminer'. Installed in 2013, the sculpture highlights Grays Harbor County life, including a 'rain forest', various fishing and arts motifs, and a world globe marking the location of Westport. The story pole is topped by my replica of the ship *Lady Washington*.

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Harbor Art Guild operates
 Six Rivers Gallery at
 200 W. Market St. in Aberdeen
 360-532-9979
 www.harborartguild.com
 Open Thursday - Monday
 Noon - 5 p.m.

Harbor Art Guild

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*Dues may be paid in two installments.

Living with an Artist Can't be Easy

by Barb Shillinger

Sometimes I feel sorry for my husband because he has to live with me. It would be easier if I was the kind of artist that chose ONE medium and stuck with it, but that isn't me. I hop between one medium and another. If I was made to choose one, I would choose dollmaking, but I wouldn't be very happy being confined to just one form of art, so I continue to embrace many.

I take classes in new art forms like pastels and alcohol ink and I acquire the supplies that go with each new thing. I not only have the supplies for those new mediums, but also for watercolor, basketmaking, art journaling, printmaking, knitting, needlework and, of course, dollmaking. They take up space and I'm not great at organizing supplies, either. Deep down, I suspect my husband is right: I don't have room enough to really put everything in its proper place. There is overflow that is hard to hide.

Sometimes I work in two mediums at the same time and I keep the supplies for both close at hand, making for cluttered areas that encompass most flat surfaces within arm's reach, including the floor. It's not a pretty sight—I dread my friends will see it and think I'm a slob.

Furthermore, I usually use our living space as my studio. I like to listen to tv while I work; I like to be near my dogs. If I were to have a studio in our current home, it would have to be up the narrow stairway, in the attic; but my dogs don't go up those steep stairs and

there's no tv up there. Thus I find it unsuitable for every medium except pastels, which can be messy—I confine their use to the attic, but everything else, I do downstairs.

And so my poor husband has to live with my art supplies and unfinished projects everywhere. Our mantle sports no less than eleven doll heads! (I enjoy making the heads about eleven times more than making the bodies to go with them.) Perhaps there should be a national (or worldwide) holiday dedicated to the partners of disorganized artists, honoring them for their patience and forbearance in the face of daily challenges to order and simplicity. We could give them flowers and candy and thank them for being patient. I don't know, though. Is there a National Artists' Day?? if we don't have a holiday, maybe they shouldn't have one, either.

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Kimmi

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Community involvement is important to me. I have been a board member of Artisan Tile North West. I belong to Harbor Art Guild and am a past president of the South Beach Arts Association. I am currently the President of the Westport South Beach Historical Society.

I have been married to Larry for over 20 years. We have a blended family, with a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren.

My degrees are in 'Data Processing' (1970s name for computer field) and Business Administration. I was a QuickBooks certified pro advisor from 2007 to 2017 and now use the software for charitable endeavors.

I accept commissions for ceramic projects for fireplaces, kitchens, baths, outdoor spaces and more, so if you have an idea or design, I can create it in ceramic for you.

Mary Lou Gregory, Editor
 email: <mlgreg@techline.com>
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 < http://www.harborartguild.com/articles-newsletter.html >