

## **Donna Bray-Zakreski** *Nature and Spirit Dancing Together*

Inspiration could be described as intellect and emotion thrust together arousing the soul. When these factors are synergistically linked inspiration is felt - spiritually awakening the artist within. Nature holds this ability to inspire **Donna Bray-Zakreski** - the ever changing palette of transitions in nature from one season to the next, with its complexity of color. Environmental concerns haunt her - global warming, dwindling populations of birds, fish and bees; the depletion of rain forests along with existing plants and creatures. Spirituality and the ethereal intertwine with nature and its concerns to become part of her creative spirit.

Bray-Zakreski's passion with fibre has returned her to the world of art. Creating art was her solace as a child following her on into university - art education was one of her specialities. Then she left art virtually behind to pursue her teaching career, assisting children with learning differences. Her skill with cloth and thread was with her long before she combined them with art. She has a strong genetic connection to fibre, beginning to sew at an early age under the guidance of her grandmother. Now her artistic pursuits are like a compulsion that is only soothed by creating with textiles. The texture of fabric with its bold palette can be manipulated into expressing thoughts and feelings. The use of dyes, paints, fibers and beads further enhances this communication. She is now leading and inspiring others to find their creative voice by presenting workshops to adults and children.

"Just working with fabric, yarns, beads, inks, dye and thread adjusts my spirit into a more positive and joyous place," said Bray-Zakreski from her Gabriola Island studio. Her quilts are characterized by elaborate, flowing, machine quilting, frequently embellished with a medley of beads. Their vibrant colors are often painted or hand dyed and are complimented with distinctive brightly textured lines. Planned with forethought but completed spontaneously, her quilts reflect nature and spirit dancing together.

# Donna Bray-Zakreski

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## Education

Master of Arts, Education Leadership, University of San Diego  
Bachelor of Education, specializing in Art, University of Regina

## Juried Exhibitions (Selected)

- 2008 Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,  
Kitchener, ON
- 2008 FAN Show Edging Forward, St. John's NL
  
- 2007 Fabric of the Imagination: Art by Quilt Visions Members, San  
Diego, CA
- 2007 LaConnor Quilt Museum, Beyond the Border - Pacific Group of  
Fiber Artists, LaConnor, WA
- 2007 CQA/ACC's National Juried Show, Kamloops, BC
  
- 2006 Oceanside Community Arts Centre, Parksville, BC
  
- 2005 Professional Art Quilt's Alliance, South,  
Art Quilt's: Journey's, Cary, NC
- 2004 Manitoba Arts Network, Breaking Tradition: an exhibition of  
contemporary art quilts, touring Manitoba and Saskatchewan

## Teaching Experience

- 2008 "Makng Your Mark on Fabric"  
Nanaimo District Teacher's Association Pro-d workshop
- 2006 "Making Your Mark on Fabric: Surface Design Elements"  
sponsored by Gabriola Arts Council and BC Arts Council  
"Makng Your Mark on Fabric"  
Nanaimo District Teacher's Association Pro-d workshop
- 2005 "Creative Journal Quilts: Making Your Mark on Fabric"  
Gabriola Quilter's Group  
Nanaimo District Teacher's Association Pro-d workshop
- 04 - 07 Gabriola Elementary School, Fibre Arts Group (after school)

## Professional Associations

Fiber Art Network of Western Canada - FAN  
CQA/ACC - Canadian Quilters Association  
Mid-Island Surface Design Group  
Quilt Visions Member, San Diego, CA  
Gabriola Fiber Artists - co-founder