



Fresh Perspectives for Spring

As Spring brings brighter days, we invite you to visit the Blackberry Gift Shop and explore our new seasonal collection filled with fresh colours and locally made handcrafted work.

For 29 years, the Blackberry Gift Shop has been part of PoMoArts. Operated by the Blackberry Artists' Society, the shop features unique creations made and staffed entirely by local artists, who are always happy to share insights about their work. Blackberry remains the only artist-run gift shop in the Tri-Cities.

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: MEET JANE OSTENSTAD & DENISE JEFFREY

In this edition of our newsletter, we are pleased to introduce members of the Blackberry Artists' Society — the artists whose creativity, volunteer spirit, and dedication help shape both our Gift Shop and our wider community. This month, we are featuring ceramic artist

Denise Jeffrey and fibre artist Jane Ostenstad, two members who contribute not only through their artwork but also through their active roles within the Society.

Both Denise and Jane help bring Blackberry artists' work to the public in meaningful ways. Denise currently serves as Co-President of the Society, helping guide its direction and support opportunities for members, while Jane coordinates our Outside Displays, expanding the Society's presence throughout the Tri-Cities.

Jane Ostenstad — Fibre Artist, Outside Display Coordinator

Jane has been a member of the Blackberry Artists' Society for over 15 years and plays an important role in connecting our artists with the broader community. As the Society's Outside Display Coordinator,



Denise Jeffrey & Jane Ostenstad

she works with a team of members to collect artwork and organize the rotating displays presented throughout the year. Her coordination helps ensure that members' work is professionally presented and widely seen across multiple community venues.

Jane's fibre artwork is rich, colourful, and wonderfully diverse. She creates exquisite hand-painted silk scarves along



*Jane Ostenstad, silk scarf (L),
Denise Jeffrey, ceramic bowl
and bird*

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“Sharing our work through Outside Displays helps connect artists with people who may be discovering handmade work for the first time.” Jane Ostenstad

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with a wide range of felted wool pieces, including scarves, framed artwork, dryer balls, fridge magnets, and more. Her work reflects a spirit of curiosity and ongoing learning, and



Jane Ostenstad, fibre arts

she continues to explore new techniques through art classes at the Coquitlam Seniors Centre.

Her work can be found exclusively at the Blackberry Gift Shop, where her vibrant textiles have become favourites with visitors and collectors alike.

Denise Jeffrey — Ceramic Artist, Co-President

Denise joined the Blackberry Artists’ Society in February 2022 and has been actively involved in leadership since 2024. She currently serves as Co-President, working collaboratively to oversee Society operations while seeking new opportunities to increase public awareness and create greater exposure for all members.

A ceramic artist working primarily in porcelain, Denise creates functional ware featuring hand-drawn blue-and-white decoration, along with occasional one-of-a-kind sculptural pieces. Her work emphasizes the connection between art and everyday life — objects designed to be both appreciated visually and used daily in the home.

Each piece is created using porcelaneous clay and decorated with texture and cobalt inlay.

Denise Jeffrey, ceramics

Inspired by natural forms, deep carving and surface patterns allow light and shadow to interact across the surface. Her blue-and-white aesthetic draws inspiration from historic ceramic traditions originating in the Middle East and Asia and later developed in Europe, combined with motifs influenced by textiles and patterns found in nature.

In addition to ceramics, Denise has explored textiles, jewellery making, and drawing. Her work is also available at the Craft Council of BC Shop on Granville Island and the Museum of Anthropology Gift Shop at UBC. She has recently exhibited at The Gallery at Queen’s Park, the Canadian Pacific Gallery at PoMoArts, and North Van Arts – CityScape Community ArtSpace.

“My blue-and-white ceramics draw on centuries of tradition while remaining rooted in contemporary life.”

Denise Jeffrey

CURRENT OUTSIDE DISPLAYS

Port Moody City Hall

100 New Port Drive
Ongoing

Coquitlam City Centre Library

1169 Pinetree Way
April 1-30



COME BY AND SAY HI...

HOURS:

Noon – 4 pm daily
Closed statutory holidays

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*Operated by the
Blackberry Artists’ Society*