

## **Donna Polos**

Donna is a watercolour painter and a fibre artist who lives in Burnaby.

Donna has worked with textiles since the age of 8, when her mother taught her how to sew doll's clothes. As a young elementary teacher, she had to create visual aides for her classroom, so she taught herself to draw. Unlike drawing, watercolour painting did not come easily. In 1992, she enrolled in four years of painting lessons. She would practice and see little growth. So, she started to experiment with watercolour techniques on cotton. Cotton was a medium she was comfortable with. When, her work needed further embellishments, she would hand or machine embroider, use tulle, beads and found objects. To create further texture and line, her needle would become her pencil. She would use it to hand quilt as she had been a quiltmaker since 1977.

As her fabric painting developed, so did her watercolour painting on paper. She often paints the two mediums side by side. Sometimes, the images on paper are used as preliminary studies for fabric painting. In the last 10 years, Donna has also painted watercolours on canvas. She is fascinated with lifting the lights and creating texture with sponges and saran wrap.

Donna has exhibiting her work in many solo shows throughout the lower mainland. Her work has been accepted in several juried shows nationally and internationally. Donna is a retired schoolteacher, an active member of the FCA, a FAN member, and a teacher on the Artstarts registry. She continues to work as an Artist In Residence on several murals and quilt projects in Surrey and Burnaby Schools and Stanley Park. She has also lectured to quilt groups and presented art workshops to teachers.