

Kate Bridger

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A Bit About Me

I was born in the mid 1950s in England and arrived in Canada with my parents and siblings in 1968. We settled on a rather isolated Forest Experimental Station just two hours north of Ottawa. I completed high school in the nearby town of Deep River and went on to attend the University of Toronto from which I graduated in 1978 with an Honours degree in Landscape Architecture.

Although my career as a Landscape Architect after graduation was fairly brief, I have continued to work in a variety of design disciplines. In the early '80s I was Art Director for *Hamilton Cue Magazine*. Following that, I began my freelance graphic design business and, to this day, continue to offer marketing, graphic design, web design, copy writing and editing services to clients.

My foray into Fabric Art began in the early 1980s when I lived with my husband and two small children in a remote pulp and paper town in Northern Ontario. The winters were long and nasty and the summers were short and buggy; there was plenty of time to pursue new interests. Having always enjoyed working with fabrics, I began making wall hangings for my children's rooms. When their walls were amply covered, I fine-tuned my techniques, tested the marketplace and developed the art form that I have remained committed to ever since.

Over two decades later, my work has appeared in magazines, won awards and is displayed in homes and businesses around the world. I have created well over 200 original pieces featuring landscapes, wildlife, house portraits, old cars, household objects and abstracts. My sources of inspiration include northern Ontario, the Kootenays, British countryside, Tuscan villages, Greek islands, Nelson New Zealand and my own backyard. I am as excited about classical architecture and pastoral vistas as I am about unkempt alleys, rusty trucks and crumbling barns.

My family and I moved to Nelson in 1994. Two years later, I opened an art and furnishing gallery downtown. I operated the business for almost a decade. It brought all my design, art, marketing and business skills together under one umbrella.

In 2006, I closed the Gallery. Since then—while exploring a variety of other vocations, including retail, ad sales and real estate, as well as traveling and successfully launching my two sons into the world—I have continued to work in Fabric Art, selling my work locally and through my website.

I also provide interior design consultations to clients and write a regular column on the subject, entitled, 'NestBuilding'. There is also a book in the works!

I continue to teach, adults and children, in various creative fields. I have also managed to keep up with the changes in technology—gone are the days when *drawing* really involved pens and paper and *paste up* literally meant wielding scissors and glue—and continue to work in graphic design and, more recently, website development.