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## **Jennifer Buckner: Featured Artist at July CIAO Art Show and Sale**

The Champlain Island Artist Organization (CIAO) has selected Jennifer Buckner of South Hero to be the featured artist at their upcoming Annual Show and Sale which will take place at the Grand Isle School July 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer works with both glass and clay which she uses to create pottery pieces and fused glass which she uses in jewelry as well as larger stained glass work. She has exhibited widely on the Islands: at the Fisk Farm, during the Open Farm and Studio Tour and at the Island Arts Gallery and each year her art evolves. In fact, this year she has “some brand new work which will premiere at the CIAO show” and from which she has selected a piece: actually a set of three pieces using fused glass which she will donate to the group to be raffled off at the show. An example of her stained glass can be seen on this year’s poster and post cards which artists will mail to their friends to announce the show.

Jennifer finds her inspiration in nature, the shapes and lines of nautilus shells, the delicacy of dragonfly wings and the intricacy of flowers can be found in her ceramics, stained glass work and jewelry.

Her hand-thrown pottery is glazed in soothing, Zen-like colors of blue or celadon green. She states that she “uses her ceramics as a palette for design and texture.” A ceramic bowl’s interior may reveal the linear pattern found in flowers while the exterior surface of a vase is highly textured with rhythmic patterns found in nature.

Her glass jewelry is more complex and more exuberant and is inspired by her long-time “fascination with jewel like colors and stained glass”. The layers of glass glow and some pieces may be fired in the kiln several times. The nature motif continues and we can find dragon flies, butterflies, shells and even the intricate design of snowflakes imbedded in the melted glass. Sometimes her work celebrates the pure joy of the relationship of color and shape. These resultant more abstract pieces can be seen as miniature complete works of art.

Jennifer produces her work out of her studio attached to her home in South Hero. She began with a glass studio, actually a room within her house, in which she worked on her larger stained glass pieces and later had built her current larger studio which could house her kilns and in which she could focus on her ceramic work. Her husband, Taylor Buckner has supported her artistic development in many ways including photographing her items and uploading them to her impressive website: [www.jenniverre.com](http://www.jenniverre.com).

Her journey to full-time artist began while she was living in Quebec. While summering in the Eastern Townships, she saw a flyer that offered a 10 week course in stained glass for \$6.00 including materials. She threw herself into learning all she could and by the next year, she was teaching the course. Later she studied at the Corning Museum of Glass where she practiced flame-working techniques, fused glass methods for jewelry making as well as classes in making larger fused glass work. She invested in the

materials needed to develop her art including the purchase of a kiln for fusing glass. Having the kiln inspired her to learn about pottery which led her to courses at the Shelburne Art Center.

Jennifer describes herself as “an obsessive perfectionist”, and she says she “has far more seconds” than self-perceived successes. Her perfectionism shows in the work that she selects to exhibit and sell. She expresses the joy that artists feel as their work nears completion stating that “opening the kiln is like Christmas, you never know how your work will morph at completion”.

Her kiln has taught her many things. One being that she should never wear nylon, down filled vest at the moment of opening the red-hot kiln to start the cooling down processes. The last time that she did that and returned to her desk to complete paperwork, she began smelling an unusual odor and discovered that the heat from the kiln had caused the down feathers to combust and began to melt her vest. Feathers flew throughout the studio as she saved herself. She now dons the appropriate heat resistant apron and goggles.

You can see Jennifer in action during the Open Farm and Studio Tour as well as at the CIAO Show and Sale. Her work can be seen at the Island Arts Gallery and on her website at [www.jenniverre.com](http://www.jenniverre.com). She will be teaching a course for Island Arts in August.

CIAO is proud to Feature Jennifer at their show which takes place during the last weekend of July. She will be exhibiting and available to talk with visitors along with 50 other Island Artists who are looking forward to sharing with the community their latest work.