

Alice Armstrong:

I started experimenting with crafts after I retired from teaching. I liked the woody sound of bamboo chimes, so I started with bamboo, glass beads, and waxed linen cord as my basic materials. Sometimes I find pieces of lamps and vintage aluminum cookie cutters and other assorted odds and ends that I work into designs.

On a trip out East, I saw a chime made with obsidian needles and loved the tinkling sound these pieces of rock made. When I got back home I bought some obsidian needles online, learned to drill holes in the rock, and started making obsidian needle chimes. Meanwhile, I developed an addiction to beautiful beads. With more beads than I could use in twenty years of making wind chimes, I decided to learn to make beaded necklaces and bracelets. Making a piece of art that I think is pretty satisfies my need to be creative, and when someone else likes a piece and buys it, well, I just feel very gratified.



Vicki Compton:

In my years of traveling and living around the world, I always was drawn to items made by local artisans. While living in Haiti I worked for Aid to Artisans and helped develop and sell locally made arts and crafts. But I never made my own crafts until a friend in Haiti needed some help building a house for herself and her two sons.

I began making prayer boxes and sold enough, along with support from generous friends, to build a strong cement home for Delceme, Olivier and Philippe.

When my friends started welcoming grand-babies, I began making burp cloths to give as shower gifts. Then my sister in law wanted some reusable bowl covers, like she remembered her mother using when she was a child. Now I enjoy making a variety of useful items to give away and sell, and the profits are still helping my friends in Haiti.

Mesi anpil!



Becki Doolin:

I've always loved quilts and quilting (even when I thought my grandmother was a little crazy for cutting up fabric just to sew it back together)! Some of my most joyful childhood memories are spending time with my grandmother and Great Aunt Nell at the sewing table and as I look back today, I am so grateful that their love of quilting and sewing was passed on to me.

I find that sewing quiets my busy mind. When I sit at my sewing machine creating, rather it be a quilt, a bag, or whatever it may be, all is well with my soul during that time. I'm grateful for all the years I've been able to quietly quilt and sew and relax from the cares of life. With the crazy world around us, it does a soul good to be at peace.

My favorite projects are "scrappy". This means using all the scraps from other projects and making sure that nothing matches. It brings such joy to look at the finished project and have memories of the fabric scraps that now form a beautiful block.

I thought about the things in my life I valued most that brought me the most joy. The quilts, of course, and I love giving quilts and quilted items as gifts so that those dear to me can feel the same joy. There is nothing better than being snuggled on the sofa with a tattered quilt and a good book on a dreary day.



Susan Fraase:

My name is Susan Fraase. I sell handmade greeting cards at the Studio on 6th. I started making greeting cards when my friends were scrapbooking. I gave them as gifts and in 2015 I went to a health fair to sell them. A customer told me the Studio on 6th needed cards like mine. I took some samples to the owner and have been there ever since.

I belong to a card making group and get lots of great ideas from them. I use rubber stamps, die cuts, circuit, and dry and heat embossing techniques. I have always loved to color. I also enjoy quilting and reading. Come in and check out my cards. There are cards for all occasions!



Joann Miller:

I am a crochet designer and owner of Festive Stitch, a crochet shop that features handmade accessories for infants and adults, as well as decor items. Specialties include layette sets, hats, bonnets, blankets and pillows. Adult designs include hats, scarves, ear warmers and decor items.

Holiday apparel is my favorite and I enjoy participating in local holiday craft shows. In addition to crocheting and designing, I love sharing my passion for crochet through teaching. I teach beginner classes at the community college as well as at local art studios. Children's classes are also offered.

I was taught to crochet at a young age by my mother, and my six beautiful grandchildren have been the main inspiration for most of my designs. Donating comfort items to local hospitals, shelters and nursing homes is important to me, as well as rewarding.

My crochet designs have been featured in the February and April issues of I Like Crochet Magazine, 2023. You can also find Festive Stitch on Etsy, Facebook, Instagram and Studio on 6th Art Co-op, Springfield, IL.



Jacqueline Rogers:

Hi I'm Jacqueline Rogers, a textile fiber artist. It all started in Chicago where I am originally from. A group of lady coworkers and I would gather in the lunchroom daily to knit and crochet. I learned to do both but was drawn closer to knitting. We would swap stories and techniques about the craft, and it became our therapy. I bought yarn every week and made quick scarfs with various yarns and even began mixing them together to create new textures. During that same time, I was reading a book called "One Simple Idea" by Stephen Key. This book is for anyone who wants to get their ideas and inventions off the ground and become an entrepreneur. After reading this book, I was inspired to invent a product called Kneedle Pet and created my company called Needling Around, Inc. My product was a foam shaped fish and sheep to hold knitting and crochet needles when not in use. In 2010 - 2012, my product was featured in Crochet Magazine, Knit Simple and Piecework Magazine, just to name a few, as one of the hottest new products. I began receiving orders and was extremely excited.

This led me to attend art & craft shows where I learned new crafts. A needle felting demonstration was conducted and the fiber artist in me was piqued by the use of wool. Fast forward, I moved to Springfield, IL in 2016 for a job promotion with the State of Illinois. I heard about Studio on 6th a couple of years later and became a vendor.



Jody Smith:

My husband got me into glass fusing, as he does stained glass. The dichroic and art glass is so pretty, the sheets could stand alone as wall art! I find it relaxing, and I enjoy finding new ways to use it. I mostly make photo holders, as I like to switch out photos frequently and it is very easy to do using the fused glass photo holders.

My husband and I are retired and enjoy camping, and traveling both locally and abroad. We have visited all 50 states, camping in all of the lower 48. And of course checking out the local glass shops!



Jenny Suttill:

I am by trade a hairdresser who first came to Studio On 6th with paintings from teaching kids and adults in my salon at All Paint. Then that thing happened in 2020, and I filled a hole at Studio on 6th by creating candles and tart waxes. Later, I created bath bombs, bath salts, shower steamers, and soap.

Suttill's Sweet Scent is made in my home studio by hand and proudly presented here at Studio on 6th. My products include a Lincoln Candle collection and bath bombs for children with fun surprise treats inside. Art in general for me is the journey not the destination, but with Suttill's Sweet Scent the destination would be joy, laughter, relaxation, and fun.



Mary Warren:

I've done many different types of arts and crafts over the past 10 years but when I started doing stained glass, something changed. I became more passionate about my art. I so enjoy creating new stained glass pieces. It's all about making beautiful combinations of colors and textures. My pieces are unique because I add wire wrap and I personalize them with charms and beads. I want people that have my pieces to enjoy the reflection of colors against light and I hope that it brings them joy when they see that!

I usually offer a wide variety of my pieces at Studio on 6th, including sun catchers, night lights, votive holders, outside flowers on a stick, necklace charms, napkin holders, tissue boxes in addition to custom orders!

Other hobbies I've enjoyed doing include pour painting, sewing, customized tumblers, heat transfer t-shirts, paper art, jewelry making and working with resin.



Melissa Jostes:

My name is Melissa. I have evolved over a lot of years and projects into a multimedia artist. After dabbling with pieces using paint, wood, charcoal, textiles, wax, metals, ink, paper, new and found objects, I've discovered that making shadow boxes allows me to mix and match all of those things to create small, special moments. I love a theme!

I enjoy making pieces that give you a peek into a mystical forest, outer space, under the sea, or just something that makes you smile. I also make coasters with different seasonal or popular themes - it's a great way to introduce something whimsical, nerdy, or seasonal into your home or favorite space in a small way. I find inspiration in nature, music, pop culture, other artists, and small things all around.



