

We are proud to present profiles of individuals who have been influential in promoting WDCC, Fine Craft, and the artists who produce it.

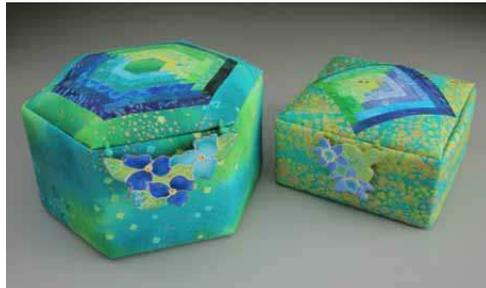
Here is one....

Barbara Pelowski

Growing up in central California, in a family that encouraged creativity; I found that it took only a few semesters of college to adopt an art major, leaving other subjects behind forever.

Enamels have been my passion since the mid 1960's when--while earning a teaching license--I was assigned to an enameling class. This exploration continued with several enameling instructors in the Milwaukee area, including Sr. Lucinda Hubing at Alverno College, Ingrid Regula at MATC, and Sr. Rosemarita Huebner at Mount Mary College. All were WDCC members and encouraged me to become a member too.

In 1980 I began working with a strip-piecing method developed by the Seminole Indians. In my work, patched strips were used as the colorful tops of fabric boxes with matching cloisonné enamel latches. In more recent years inspiration for the box tops has come from interesting fabrics, traditional patchwork designs, hand dying and other surface design techniques.



Often the fabric seems to speak to me about what to do with the box. A lively bright colored cat fabric used for a lining may suggest a Seminole strip in intense primary colors with a companion fabric for the outside of the box. Other fabrics may lead to the color play in a traditional patchwork block. Still others may suggest a folk art design.

The use of enameling and patchwork together is an extremely unusual combination. The time spent painting the enamels, seeking out interesting fabrics while traveling, manipulating colors, as well as designing and sewing fabric are enjoyable and satisfying to me.



Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council

1916 - 2016

Professional memberships include:

Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council (WDCC), where I served for many years on the board and as President; the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople (WAAC); the Enamelist Society; the American Craft Council and the Great Lakes Enameling Guild. The Enamel group has become a main focus for me.



This is a 1988 shot from the Milwaukee Journal showing Char Lundeen, Jo Marie Ricketts, and me in the stripes. I painted the banners and we were hanging them for the WDCC Morning Glory Fair from the 2nd floor of the Charles Allis Art Museum.

In 2014 I retired from the art fair circuit and now am enjoying more travel, playing with our grandchildren, and have finally been able to keep up with the weeds in the flower beds.



Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council
Promoting fine craft and the artists who create it