

ARTISTS AMONG US

Leigh Herndon

>>How do you describe your work?
Fiber art and wearable art

>>When did you discover your creative talents?

An art professor let me do an independent study in batik, as no fibers courses were offered in the art department. I ordered dyes and taught myself, and eventually earned a master's degree in fiber arts.

>>Where can we see your work?

My wearable art — ruanas (loose jackets), sarongs, shawls and scarves — is at Kari's Kreations (830 Neapolitan Way) and Pretty Woman (7935 Airport Road N.). Also on my website: www.leighdesignsnaples.com.

>>How do you describe your style?

My expressions are a blend of impressionism and abstraction. I remain fascinated with the effects I can achieve with wax and layers of dyes on silk. I create unusual shades by buying only the primary colors of dyes and mixing them. Silk fabric dyes more brilliantly than any other fiber, and it is joyful to dye.

>>What inspires you?

The beauty around me in Southwest Florida, especially tropical plants and nature and all its variations.

>>Where do you work?

I work and teach in a studio that's filled with dye vats, pans of hot wax, tables to hold stretching frames and a plethora of special brushes, tjantings and various Asian tools.

>>How do you feel your art contributes to the community?

Fashion and art are important here. My garments and cruise wear offer women an opportunity to wear locally designed wearable art and feel unique.

>>What are you reading now?

"Make Your Own Japanese Clothes" by John Marshall.

>>What are some of your other passions?

Kayaking, scuba diving, exploring the Everglades. ■



Leigh Herndon

COURTESY PHOTO

— Artists Among Us is provided by the United Arts Council of Collier County. The council promotes all the arts in Collier County and provides education in the arts for at-risk students. For more information and a calendar of arts and cultural events, call 263-8242 or visit www.CollierArts.com.

Hometown: Billings, Mont.
Education: BFA, the University of Montana; MFA Southern Illinois University

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TUE., APRIL 12
WED., APRIL 20
TUE., APRIL 26



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