



DENNIS PHILLIPS



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LEFT: WORKING IN HIS STUDIO IN DOWNTOWN SPRING GREEN

Just the Facts!

Dennis Phillips - Alfred Art To Wear - Spring Green

Artist medium: Fiber - Wearable

Primary method of working: Knit fabrics hand loomed to shape. Hand finished. Hand knits and crochet pieces.

Favorite surface/technique treatment: This changes over time. For now I'm enjoying "skip stitch". A technique to distort horizontal stripes. Color and texture are always used.

Equipment used: Hand operated knitting machine, knitting needles, crochet hooks,

tapestry needles, ball winders, linker, graft paper, lined paper, mechanical pencil, 2.0 and up readers, Ott lamp and occasionally a computer aided design program.

Favorite tools: My knitting machine, Addi Rocket Squared knitting needles, a wooden crochet hook from my Grandmother and size 20 and 18 tapestry needles.

Studio playlist (music/podcasts) : WPR Classical. Pandora - Global Chill, Gotan Project, The Dead Can Dance, John Klemmer,

Rosemary Clooney, Polyphony, Joan Armatrading, Richard Strauss, Bruce Bcevar, Worldbeat, Bombay Dub Orchestra and Mark Knopfler Radio. Spotify - The Chicks "Gaslighter", Emmylou Harris, Ella Fitzgerald, Rufus Wainwright, John Prine, Paloma Faith, Afro Celt Sound System, Be3y Who, Perfume Genius, Bright Light Bright Light, Yola, Ondara, Rodney Crowell, Pat Metheny. Podcasts - The Ezra Klein Show, VOX, Phoebe Reads a Mystery and I may start The Michelle Obama Podcast.



ALFRED ART TO WEAR



THREE SWEATERS ON DISPLAY



CLOSE UP OF A SWEATER

Artist Conversation!

Let's Learn a Little More...

Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be living life the you are today?

I was raised by a seamstress and tailor who studied costume and fashion design. My grandmother, who lived with us, taught me to crochet. When it was time for college my parents "suggested" I get a degree in something I could make a living from. My degree is in Elementary Education. My electives were mostly fiber and art related. I graduated in the mid 70's. Perspective teachers were in abundance. I ended up working for Northwest Orient Airlines. Just what I needed. The world was opened. I traveled to Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and India. I was introduced to the knitting machine/loom. I

developed my craft. I met other craftsmen/artists. A door opened, Craft and Art Shows. Then my working studio in Spring Green. I'm still learning, working, developing, and loving.

How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?

Having my studio away from home makes it easy to keep a balance. When I'm home in rural Wisconsin I'm home. When I'm in Spring Green I'm in my studio. And having traveled for 35 years gave me plenty of practice.



PINK SWEATER



LIGHT GRAY SWEATER



LIGHTWEIGHT SWEATER



CLOSE UP OF A WHITE SWEATER AND SCARF

RIGHT: IN THE SHOWROOM
AT ALFRED ART TO WEAR



DARK SWEATER



PINK & ORANGE



WARM SWEATER



Tell us a little bit about your Studio!

I moved my studio to a public space in 2002. The studio and show space were intermixed in one room. In 2017 I moved to my current studio to the oldest building in Spring Green. It was established in 1856 as a General Merchandise Store. I now have an entry showroom/gallery that leads to a large studio at the back. In the studio I have a large north window that lets in plenty of good natural light. 2 of my looms are available all the time, a full sewing center, a steaming/blocking corner and cutting corner. My wall of color has expanded from 9' to 12' wide. A shelving unit that holds cones of yarn and is positioned to be visible from the showroom.

Where do you find your inspiration?

Visual inspiration in my art: A random texture and color combination.

Visual techniques used in my art:

Distorting classic stitch patterns. EG for a 2 color row, using 2 colors for color A and 2 colors for color B. Or in a 3 color Jacquard pattern, changing it by using 4 colors.

Research which has inspired my art:

Traveling for 35 years and it's impact on living and learning.

People/Artists who have inspired my art:

There have been a few others but I will note my mother, Elizabeth Phillips, who taught me life is learning.

Where can we find your work and learn more?

I maintain a [website](#) for information and contact. But I'm finding fewer people use it. [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) are the main go to's for most people. I'm active with the Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce and their Retail Committee.

From the Chamber I get word of mouth referrals. Being in Spring Green is major on it's own. Aside from 3 major attractions the Village is a destination of it's own for many visitors. I photograph my work with the camera in my cell phone. It's easy to upload to Instagram and Facebook. New during this time of Covid is business interactions through messaging. Images and text has lead to color choices and garment selections. But social media and tech contacts still aren't as good as being in my studio or showroom. No matter how good ones monitor or screen may be color and texture doesn't always translate. A recent example, a client wanted a deep purple. Three different images were showing too much red in the color. When I mailed a swatch with the yarn it was perfect.