



NORMA CHAPMAN EMERSON

Norma was born in Tisdale, Saskatchewan, 1949. Winning art awards in secondary school, she completed degrees in Education and Honours in Fine Arts in Saskatoon, U. of S. She taught art and math at Toro Teachers' College in Nigeria with C.U.S.O. Intrigued by multiculturalism, teaching Cree, at James Smith First Nations, then Saulteau at Fishing Lake First Nations, followed.

Drawn to design and structure in Nigeria, Norma studied Architectural Technology at N.A.I.T., in Edmonton. She returned to Saskatoon to work at Holiday-Scott and Payne Architects to do drafting and interior design.

At the U. of A. Scottish Country Dance Club, Norma met and later married Irish geologist and photographer, Donald Emerson. They raised their children, Jenny and Clayton in Qualicum Beach. Love of motherhood and a new seascape and forest environment provided artistic inspiration. She worked several years as a Teacher on Call and taught art at Ballenas Secondary School in Parksville. She also taught community art classes for all ages at M.A.C., T.O.S.H., and Malaspina. Norma delighted in seeing other's creativity drawn out which in turn helped her energy to flourish. After school she taught E.S.L. to Korean students and tutored indigenous students. Throughout her ecumenical outreach, she often used creativity to help transform perception and give awareness to social and political injustices. She also taught English in S. Korea, Peru. And art in Africa with Camp Uganda.

Chapman Emerson's versatility ranges from realism to abstract expressionism, and wearable fibre arts. Subtly mixed complementary colours lend a vibrancy or sometimes serenity to her compositions. Norma paints what brings her joy. She hopes that when viewing her art, you will feel that way too.