

I was raised in New England of Scottish, Canadian and English blood. From an early age I immersed myself in both the natural world and the world of art. For me, there was little separation between the beauty in nature and that of fine art/craftsmanship. I am frugal by nature and favor function, simplicity, and bold color in art. Using reclaimed materials when possible makes sense to me.

With no formal training in design or color theory, I work intuitively to produce pieces that are both useful and beautiful. It is satisfying to take bits and pieces and craft them into usable art that will grace a home and lift a heart. As a self-taught artisan, I am drawn to rich saturated colors to create the visual texture that I so enjoy. Making one of a kind art craft pieces that are functional, collectible and enduring gives me great satisfaction.

Although I start with a basic plan, with art, one is never entirely sure of the final outcome. Part of what appeals to me when creating is the mystery, the adventure and the bravery it takes to start something, not knowing how it will turn out in the end.

I have been fascinated with wooden Barn Quilts for decades. These simple quilt blocks painted on wood arrived on this continent with early immigrants from the central regions of Europe; Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. Folk designs and geometric quilt block patterns inspired the early painters, with stars being a favorite choice. Originally, an expression of heritage, a marker to direct travelers and as protectors of farm and family they are thought to bring good fortune. Simple shapes and vibrant solid colors make the blocks easy to see from afar and add a welcome burst of color to any home. Today, we enjoy them for these reasons and perhaps as a touchstone to traditions long gone. These islands are the perfect place for Barn Quilts!

My distinctive pieces are made with expert craftsmanship to stand the test of time and weather. Each of my barn quilts is designed and painted to be hung outdoors. However, many people find them so stunning they keep them inside for a daily splash of color. I am careful to choose only high quality materials and love the process of building the block from salvaged wood, then prepping it to paint a bold dynamic design that will honor the tradition and enliven your space. Each item is handcrafted and represents many hours of work. Summer is the best time to paint with good natural light and warm weather to speed the drying process. Decades of refinement in general design and execution of technique results in a level of craftsmanship that ensures a high quality end product that will endure for years to come.

You can see my work on Etsy at [etsy.com/shop/harpswear](https://www.etsy.com/shop/harpswear) or on Instagram @harpswear.