

## **Interviews**

**Q:How did you first decide what you wanted to do and who/what inspired you to make that decision?Did you decide that instantly or gradually over time?**

A:Steven Brouwer:In Vermont he was making houses and was bored and he read an article about a school and decided that he wanted to learn how to build boats. As soon as he read the article he knew it was boats but he knew for longer that he wanted to do more than build houses.

A:Nancy Bingham:Nancy always loved drawing and painting so when she went to art school she found out that pottery is an art instead of a craft. It was somewhat a coincidence that when she went to art school was when pottery started getting big.

A:Gregg Blomberg:He started learning about making tools and he did that for a while.

A:Makena Henriksen:When six or seven at an arts and crafts camp and babysitters were blacksmiths and she figured thats what she wanted to do. Both because she had it when she was younger but she also kinda had it as a calling rather than a decision.

A:Brenna Jael:She wanted to have a lot of sketch books but they were too expensive so she just decided that she would make them on her own.

**Q:How do you come up with new ideas or things to do now?**

A:Steven Brouwer:Request from buyers, mainly custom wood work, boats and furniture.

A:Nancy Bingham:Going on a walk and seeing nature.

A:Gregg Blomberg:We learn things from others and build on from that, always pursue.

A:Makena Henriksen:What shes interested in things. She likes spoons so she decided to make a ladle. Something her family or friends need. Possibly by request.

A:Brenna Jael:She uses a lot of old cool looking buckles.

**Q:What things inspire you now in your art?**

A:Steven Brouwer:Request from buyers, a commission of some kind. Since he is surrounded by water he loves making boats.

A:Nancy Bingham:Nature, animals, and the ocean.

A:Gregg Blomberg:Things you don't want to do, things that interest you, island community, nature, and Native Americans.

A:Makena Henriksen:Community and nature inspires her in her work because they intersect. Looking at humans as part of the nature and community.

A:Brenna Jael:Some of the books have a nature inspired aspect with bark or small sticks.

**Q:Has your overall process changed at all over the years of creating your work?**

A:Steven Brouwer:More smart and much more experience. Build up knowledge in your life by spending time doing it and making mistakes.

A:Nancy Bingham:Now, there is less volume, more attention to detail, work resembles herself, it is her one constant in her life, and it keeps evolving and changing as herself.

A:Gregg Blomberg:He used to make tools but he doesn't really sell them anymore so he mainly just does carving now.

**Q:How do you decide what you are going to do next?**

A:Steven Brouwer:Sometimes its request(all of the furniture).

A:Nancy Bingham:A lot of nature influence.

A:Gregg Blomberg:We are all copyist, we take ideas from others so he combines ideas from others to create something else or something newish.

A:Makena Henriksen:Different techniques that she wants to have under her belt so she can have a better extensive of experiences.

A:Brenna Jael:She reuses a lot of materials from the dump and the library.

**Q:What are your favorite things to work with? Tools? Mediums?**

A:Steven Brouwer:For boat planking, yellow cedar, and for furniture, cherry or walnut.

A:Nancy Bingham:All pottery things, has worked with clay right off the island.

A:Makena Henriksen:Probably mild steel because it is easier to work with. No favorite tool but there are usually a favorite hammer but not for her yet. Maybe a fly press(mechanical/no electricity).

A:Brenna Jael:She works with leather a lot and she reuses a lot, she also has made some prints that she has made herself.

**Q:Have you ever worked with other people?**

A:Steven Brouwer:Yes, one time he worked with some kids right out of college to make a boat and he hires people sometimes to help him.

A:Nancy Bingham:Nancy works with a whole bunch of potters on this huge kiln once or twice a year. Then a long time ago she worked with another guy on the island.

A:Gregg Blomberg:Yes, on a huge totem pole in the front of his shop and other carving team projects.

A:Makena Henriksen:Nothing major yet but there are possibilities in the near future.

**Q:Do you prefer to work by yourself or with others?**

A:Steven Brouwer:He does like working with others but mainly by himself, because it is slim picking.

A:Nancy Bingham:She prefers to work by herself.

A:Gregg Blomberg:Its more fun working with other people.

A:Makena Henriksen:She likes mixed because she recharges by herself and playing around, then with others she also enjoys but not always.

**Extra Things:**

Steven Brouwer:Perfection is difficult and not necessary.

Nancy Bingham:Does a lot of custom work, uses what she makes, has evolved a lot in business section, will work till she dies.

Gregg Blomberg:Love small community, talked a lot about spirit animals, respect and don't lie to your kids, live in gratitude, and work till you die.

Makena Henriksen:Not a lot of money so trading is a really good through arts and crafts people.

Brenna Jael:She makes cards, postcards, notebooks, and she also made a flip book. Then the books that she makes come in all different sizes and themes and each book is different because it is boring to do the exact same thing over and over again. Don't let your hormones control you.