

DOLPHIN GALLERY

JACKIE GARDENER DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES

Opening Reception Saturday, March 6, Exhibit up through March 31

When sitting at my art table, I often think of my mother and her responsibility for leading me into this artistic life.

I studied art in college and got my Bachelor's degree. After graduating and working for a couple of years, I moved back to the San Francisco Bay area where I grew up, and entered school again, this time in the study of interior design. I blossomed in the study of texture, pattern, space planning, drafting and furniture design, color and the organization of space. That second degree, a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design, led me to a twenty year career in commercial interiors, specializing in hospitals and medical facilities. I was happy running my business, and left my mark in the San Joaquin Valley where I lived for many years. My primary client the last ten years was Kaiser Permanente. I worked on hundreds of thousands of square feet of medical offices, emergency rooms, surgical suites, allergy clinics, pediatric units, and other medical specialties.

In the meantime, I had discovered the coastal bliss of The Sea Ranch, and wanted to move there, leaving the heat of the valley behind forever. A weekend class in papermaking and bookbinding captured my interest, rekindling that old focus, and set me on a new path. A whole graphic package lay at my fingertips in books. The melding of color, image, texture and fine workmanship led me in recent years away from books to explore collage, always with a desire to create balance and order from the chaos of an untold story, the emotion of a universal truth, or the power of a personal narrative. Each book or collage, much like a medical office suite, is designed so that every aspect of it is blended together into a single coordinated experience that builds upon itself as the pages are turned and details revealed.



Ten years of making hand made books provided me with a keen appreciation for words and text, and they have become an integral part of my work. New papers excite me and I can physically feel a rush when I begin to imagine how to use them, how I will fold them, or cut them, or what embellishments would enhance their deep texture or rich color. Unusual findings that I can tinker with and use in some unexpected way can raise my blood pressure and put me into the place I call The Zone. Time passes and I see only the project on my desk. I can't hear, and I am not easily distracted. It is relaxed but intense. This is the place I crave, and can find when a new idea works its way from my head through my hands to the paper.

DOLPHIN GALLERY
39225 Highway One in Gualala, CA
(behind the post office on the south side)
Call (707) 884-3896 for more information.