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CRAFTS ASSOCIATION of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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### **Laurie Steffler**

Feltscapes Design  
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Studio is open by appointment only (call)

Work can be viewed at the following venues:

- Saltspring Saturday Market April – October
- Artcraft, Salt Spring Island, 250-537-0899
- One of a Kind Christmas Show, Toronto

### **Artist's Statement**

I create fiber art through the inspiration, peace and joy I receive from nature and the beauty of the landscape that surrounds me on Salt Spring Is. My watercolour and oil painting training has given way to my love of fiber and its texture. I hand-dye most of the wool I use in order to have a large palette of colour with which to work. I layer colours in a painterly style as I would a watercolour and open to an experience where one evokes the soul, as I do this. I create framed woolen fine art and wallhangings. I also love to design clothing that is both unique and functional. I developed my own technique from a style of felting called "Nuno" to create soft lightweight clothing by felting fine Merino wool through silk. This past year my wearable line was inspired by gardens, stained glass and Celtic design. I had fun sculpting hats to accompany the scarves and vests.

I graduated from the Ontario College of Art in 1982 and learned to felt in 1986 after returning home from a "Women's Journey for Peace" to the Soviet Union where I took 18 quilts. Recently my work was seen at Convergence, Vancouver and the One of a Kind Show, Toronto. I teach felting and music workshops to adults and elementary school children with funding through Art Starts in the Schools.

**Image List**

1. "Nordic Sunset", 60" x 10"
2. "Mountain Meadow" 60" x 10"
3. "Winds of August" 6' x 3'

**Process**

The felt-making process I use has developed from sheep herders and is an ancient craft. Wool fibers have tiny barbs that when lubricated with water, heat and then agitated naturally lock and mat together to form material.

The making of felt is a physically demanding process because the rolling and or kneading process continues until a strong and durable fabric is achieved. Since wool keeps its shape when molded, sculpted hats are fun to make. I use Merino wool for its softness and ability to felt thin and strong. I use Border Leicester wool that comes from my friends farm on Salt Spring Is. because it adds great texture and is local.

My scarves are created by felting merino wool through silk fabric and are so soft and lightweight that customers are continually excited and surprised when they put them on.