

Images from *Pulp* by Grace Gordon-Collins

## Creative Spaces

Visit North Shore Artists in their Studios

Belinda Bruce

### Grace Gordon-Collins

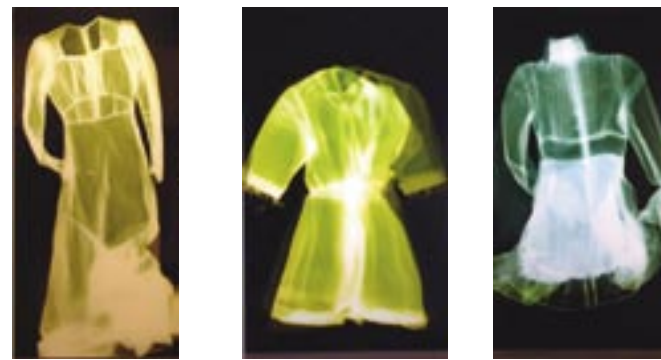
If there is a driving force behind the photography of Grace Gordon-Collins it is the self-described pursuit of “the mysterious.” An established architect and interior designer for over 25 years, Grace approaches photography with a focus on architectural detail—the intersection of light, space, form and reflection—but also a penchant for narrative structure. “I tend toward reductive work, the abstraction of space and form, but my work is also evolving to include people.”

Her studio is on the ground floor of a renovated warehouse near the North Vancouver shipyards where Grace and her husband Ernest run their award-winning architecture practice and interior design firm, Archipelago. Until a few years ago, the business was Grace’s main focus, but the dramatic events of 9/11 caused her to reassess her priorities and pursue her neglected dream of photography studies. She enrolled at the Emily Carr Institute and earned her bachelor of fine arts.

While working on her Masters degree in architecture at MIT in the ‘70s, she studied under renowned American photographer Minor White who taught students about states of “heightened awareness.” At Emily Carr, she explored a more conceptual approach to photography. She stumbled upon a very personal project through her daughter, who was enrolled in art school at the same time. Together they shot a series of reconstructed pulp fiction covers featuring Grace’s daughter as the main character in each. “I ended up telling my own narrative

story. Excerpts of a rough childhood.” The result was *Pulp*, a series of vivid photomontages recalling books by pulp-fiction masters Mickey Spillane and Mike Hammer. Exhibited earlier this year at the Diane Farris Gallery, *Pulp* included two supporting groups of work: *The Dress*, three luminous and ghostly photograms of wedding dresses (belonging to Grace, her mother and her grandmother) and *The Port*, abstracted glimpses of shipping containers.

Grace’s studio is also a gallery space—Gallery Yo Yo—intended to give exposure to emerging artists. “It’s my way of giving back to the arts community,” says Grace. “We’ve had two shows so far. These are curated shows for very gifted people who need a venue. I want to help those who have talent but often lack the business skills to get their work in the public realm.”



*The Dress* by Grace Gordon-Collins

### Cathi Jefferson

In Cathi Jefferson’s world, the universe is square.

From teapots to vases, plates to bowls, the work of this Deep Cove potter has a predominantly geometric theme—mostly square and triangular shapes. “I like square. I just do,” says Cathi. “It gives you a palette to work with.” Her deep connection with nature provides endless inspiration and the *raison d’être* for creating functional stoneware. “My overwhelming desire to make functional dishes is grounded in the belief that it’s important to have handmade items in our lives to help us remain connected to the natural world and to each other.” With each piece she hopes to reveal a bit about where she comes from and engage people to navigate them as “framed windows.”

A ceramic artist since the mid-1970s, Cathi is continually drawn to the beauty and unpredictability of salt and wood-fired clay. “It’s done in a gas kiln; no glazes are applied. You’re never quite sure how it will turn out, but I’ve come to know the places where there is less and more salt. Each firing is different. It keeps the process fresh and alive.”

Cathi’s custom-built studio has a chunk of nature right in the middle of it: a huge piece of granite jutting from one wall. Surrounded by windows and greenery, she has constructed an environment that reflects her life and art. “If you are where you want to be, it affects the work that you do.” Her work can be found at Circle Craft Gallery and the Gallery of BC Ceramics on Granville Island. This year her annual studio sale happens on December 3 and 4.



*Yunomi* by Cathi Jefferson



**WHO:** Cathi Jefferson, Ceramic Artist  
**WHERE:** Her studio, 604.929.9175

*Leaf Stacking Spice Set and Leaf Teapots* by Cathi Jefferson

### PORTRAIT



## Zahra Hosseinkhan

Lana Nechayev

Zahra Hosseinkhan is a Canadian international artist who was born in Iran in 1971. Her passion for visual arts started at the young age of twelve. Her skill was already peaking to professional level and she was encouraged to pursue her studies at the Art College of Tehran. There, she was one of a select few to study under three of Iran’s master painters in different areas and media to ensure a fundamental understanding of the methods and practice of highly realistic and surrealistic oil painting, water colour, pencil drawing and pen and ink. All three masters guided her along a path to technical brilliance in all the fundamental elements of painting and drawing.

Soon after school, Zahra was encouraged to continue her artistic pursuits as a teacher and gallery owner; she was selected for the public school system to tutor the Art program and soon become its featured artist. On her 21st birthday, she also celebrated the grand opening of her own gallery and art academy in Tehran.

In 1996, Zahra immigrated to Canada and, deeply touched by the natural beauty of BC, chose Vancouver as a permanent place to live and pursue her artistic career. In 1998 she joined the Zahrajeet School of Fine Art in Burnaby as Director and Vice president.



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**WHO:** Grace Gordon-Collins  
**WHERE:** Her studio, 604.983.2896