

Alice Vander Vennen

Creator of Assembled Treasures

Alice Vander Vennen's parents emigrated from war-torn Holland for a new life in Canada, but Alice herself was born in Canada and **her art speaks powerfully of her native country.**

Growing up on a farm, young Alice found herself just **naturally using whatever she found to create new things** – clay into small sculptures, bailer twine into wall hangings – and soon she was off to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, training as a sculptor.

Now, living in Cobourg, Alice is internationally known for her three-dimension "assemblages" using fabric supplemented by all sorts of found materials.

*The assembled sculptural form may be reminiscent of a quilt, a canoe or a totem. I strive to have the materials **form a new voice of a gathered people, a celebration of the human spirit in relation to its Creator, whether from secret spaces or the most flamboyant expressions.***

Like fellow Cobourg artist, Ron Bolt, Alice finds inspiration in listening to music, putting things together to create something new, just as a musician puts sounds and rhythms together to create a new tune. Also like Ron, Alice has an **installation at the Cobourg Community Centre, the 100 Floating Fish Sculpture.** At least half of the fish were created with input from citizens who participated in an open workshop. The result is a colourful visual of a community coming together, created through fabric.



*I love fabric because of how rich in information it is. Not only does it have the five elements of art—line, shape, colour, texture, and space — but it also carries so much history. **In many cultures, fabric carries the work and the stories of women, so often silent.***



"Memory Stick"



Alice's work has been exhibited widely throughout North America as well as farther afield, and she is a frequent presenter at workshops. The Paradise City Arts Festival in Marlborough, MA, characterized her as among the **"best-of-the-best" of America's most exciting independent artists, designers and master craft makers.**



"Anchoring"

Two illustrated books of her work have been published: *Traversing* and *Assembled Treasures*.

