



Mary Fox



Monik



St. John Glass Studio

Jeanne Krabbendam

How many artists are there in BC?  
By Christina Crook



Robert Parks



Inges Idee



Dutchite



Damaris Oakley



Motoko

Deciphering the number of artists in British Columbia requires a lot of fancy guesswork, and it's likely we're getting the number far too small. Still, by all provincial accounting, BC stands as the most cultured part of the country with over 24,000 artists in residence, more than any other province in Canada.

Some artists prefer the life of the recluse, living in handmade huts among the Arbutus trees. Others swim in the culture pond, engaging audiences and colleagues with their creative repertoire. Whatever the locale and whichever the medium, British Columbia's borders are brimming with talent.

From Inges Idee's slender abstracted rain droplet: The Drop, a laconic landmark representing Vancouver's wetscape, to Vernon's charming wall-side murals, the variety in this province is breathtaking.

Making is in. Craft collectives like Bowen Island's Hive are becoming commonplace. Horsefly Manor, a tiny cabin in the woods above the south shore of Quesnel Lake in the Cariboo Mountains, is a shared writer's retreat. Vancouverites feeling the urge to make, head to the likes of Blim, a shared art space in the heart of Chinatown where you can take bookbinding, life drawing or screen printing workshops.

Each city has a hometown Arts Council and other, more organic, arts collectives formed around shared mediums, interests, or age. Some of the best places to discover new artists' work is at farmer's markets, local galleries, art walks, and at events like Vancouver's annual Cheaper Show. Driving through BC you'll also spot white and blue signs advertising 'Artisan.' Follow your nose and you'll soon be dropping in on the home studio of a local maker. Local pottery studios are an excellent place to buy gorgeous handmade bowls, sculptures, plates or teapots.

Whether you're seeking Haida Gwaii carvings, contemporary canvases, or classic ceramics, British Columbia is yours for the making.