



PJ Bergin

Following the Inner Voice

Like a river, an artist's journey meanders, picking up bits and pieces, and then roaring into a whitewater of energy. Contemporary abstract artist PJ Bergin sees this metaphor as a driving force — one that led her to Salida, Colorado, where the Arkansas River winds through town.

Since childhood, PJ has been harnessing her imagination with her hands. At age five, she started crocheting, knitting, and making clothes for the dolls of neighborhood friends. Playing jacks and pick-up sticks developed her

hand-eye coordination, as well as an ability to see and deconstruct random patterns. "I was always making things. Deep inside there was a very strong hand-to-mind connection, and it continues today."

Encouraged by a neighbor who had studied clothing design in Paris and who had a couture Vogue pattern catalog, PJ started sewing by the time she was in grade school. "Designing and constructing clothing was what I wanted to do. My neighbor was a huge influence on me."