

# JEN SWEARINGTON

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## SUMMARY

- Expert women's apparel designer/ maker: garment construction, paper patternmaking, size grading, and precise fit
- Cottage industry manufacturer: lead team to create 2000+ original handmade pieces in-house per year
- Highly skilled illustrator and print designer with exceptional drawing abilities and extensive portfolio
- Seasoned educator in short-term workshop and long-term university settings
- Lifelong artist with prolific body of work in multiple media and active exhibition schedule
- Published author with impeccable written, verbal, and graphic communication skills
- Proficient in Mac & PC, Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, Word, IPhoto, Squarespace, Mailchimp, Quickbooks, Wave

## EXPERIENCE

**2003-present Founder/ Chief Designer**, Jennythreads, Inc., Charleston, SC

### DESIGN

- Develop artistic, innovative apparel and accessory products for seasonally updated product line
- Draft and grade paper patterns for entire line, from first prototype to sized multiples for production runs
- Illustrate imagery and motifs, then burn screens and print patterns onto fabric yardage and constructed garments
- Supply accurate tech packs, samples, patterns, and orders of operations to manufacturing partners

### PRODUCTION

- Source all fabrics and trims with strong focus on domestically grown, milled, and recycled materials
- Track detailed product costing to ensure favorable wholesale margins, retail markups, and overall profitability
- Utilize LEAN efficiency and environmentally responsible studio practices for all in-house cut-and-sew production

### LEADERSHIP

- Delegate tasks of design assistants and subcontractors, coordinate team members' contributions on master schedule
- Involve assistants in prototype development process through brainstorming, collaboration, and evaluation
- Encourage meticulous attention to detail throughout garment construction process for flawless finished pieces
- Provide excellent customer service and foster relationships with retail customers and wholesale accounts

### 2001-present Adjunct Professor/ Workshop Instructor

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN 2002-2016      Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC 2009-2014  
Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA 2006-2007      Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC 2008  
University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville NC 2005-2007      Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 2020  
Cloth Fiber Workshop & Local Cloth, Asheville, NC 2010-2020      John Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC 2019-2021

- Teach short, intensive workshops to semester-long classes in fashion design, fiber arts, book arts, and humanities
- Lecture, lead discussions and critiques, demonstrate techniques, write syllabi and assignments, grade student work
- Mentor, advise, and inspire students to draw from their personal experiences to create strong, meaningful artwork

### 2013 Author & Illustrator, *Printing on Fabric: Techniques With Screens, Stencils, Inks and Dyes*, Lark Crafts

- Write and illustrate the comprehensive guide to hands-on print design, from textile basics to technical screen-printing, repeat pattern design, and dye chemistry, including instructions, templates, recipes, and samples for 14 how-to projects

## EDUCATION

**2000 Master of Fine Arts** in Fibers, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA      **GPA 4.0**

**1997 Bachelor of Fine Arts** in Sculpture with Minor in Art History, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY      **GPA 3.9**

2018-2021 Month long International art residencies in Bulgaria, Mexico, Greece & Finland; Domestic: Gibbes Museum of Art

2015-2019 Lean manufacturing practices, design partnership with manufacturers, and small business scale-up

2017-2020 Continuing education: intermediate Spanish language proficiency