



Art and Craft North American Style

By Susan I. Shiber
Photography by Kelly O'Keefe

Karen Cavin is a compendium of contrast. As a child, breathless from playing kickball on the residential streets of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, she ran in the house, clutched crayons, and designed dresses for her Lennon Sisters paper dolls. When finished, the spirited youngster helped her

Right: The 5 Senses has been a destination for original art and fine craft since 2005. Owner Karen Cavin says, "I'm all about being bold and colorful. There are no paintings, only handmade works by over 90 artisans from the United States and Canada."

brother fabricate clever little erector set buildings. In elementary school, Cavin joined the art club, captivating all with a four-legged chicken!





Below: Exquisite sea grass baskets



High school art teacher Nancy Coon nurtured her talented student's intrinsic imaginative impetus. "Mrs. Coon was gung-ho into '60s *happenings*," reminisces Cavin. "She took our class to The Metropolitan Museum of Art and let us loose to explore New York galleries. She encouraged me

to take chances in art. Naturally, I tried everything. Things were so exciting; so much happened that changed everything. It was a big crazy time."

After, two weeks at sleepy Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, Cavin sought the guidance of her mentor.

HOME & GARDEN



Above: Jonathan's® Spoons for any culinary need are carved from native Pennsylvania cherry.

Coon encouraged her to enroll at North Illinois University where her own guru Dr. Arends was head of the art school. "My father was adamant that the purpose of col-



lege/art school was to be able to make a living. It wasn't to learn how to paint portraits or throw pottery, which I would have preferred. Consequently, I went into graphic design and earned a B.A. in visual communications – BC, before computers.”

Cavin's skills stood out in a New Jersey flexo printing plate company and as the art director at The Printshop in Wayne after she and her husband Bruce moved to West Chester. When the first of her two daughters was born, she established a successful freelance graphic arts business at her home studio.

“After 30 years, I realized I wasn't having fun anymore. I closed my studio the end of 2003 and floundered about a bit,” says Cavin. “Then a friend and I introduced North American art and craft at an Oakbourne Mansion show. We called it The 5 Senses because we consciously presented all five senses. After the partnership ended, I wasn't sure what was next.”

Direction called to Cavin from an available storefront on West Market Street near the Chester County Justice Center construction site. “I knew the area had the potential to be the next hot spot in West Chester,” recalls Cavin. “I enlisted Jeff Schneider, a friend with retail experience, to make The 5 Senses a viable source for shoppers who appreciate fine crafts and want to support American artists. I could never have opened without him.”

The 5 Senses has been a destination for original art and fine craft since 2005. Window displays invite all into bright nooks spilling over with fun and fancy. “I'm all about being bold and colorful. There are no paintings, only handmade works by over 90 artisans from the United States and Canada that are affordable and mostly functional. We have 20 artists

from Pennsylvania including four Chester County jewelers. We're always interested in new artists; buying local is important.”

Don't expect to breeze through Cavin's ever-changing collections. Beguiling the senses is the point. Wind chimes patterned in tiny petals of pigment or forged from reper-

WALTER J. COOK JEWELER

Established 1946

*It's not too early to begin
thinking about ...*



The Mobius Heart Pendant
by Somers Randolph



Chestnut Village Shoppes | 36 Chestnut Road | Paoli, PA 19301

610.644.5347

www.walterjcookjeweler.com

HOME & GARDEN

posed flatware tinkle to the touch. Once army helmets or drill bits, birds and turtles and pigs, oh my, fly and swoop in funky fashion.

Junkyard Dogs & Cats from Yardbirds® prance in mirthful metal profusion. Figurative wine caddies attract sports and hobby enthusiasts. To complete the bar, add custom hand-painted glasses that celebrate colleges and pro ball teams.

Gemstone SoapRocks® top gift lists all year long and gracefully shaped candles in hundreds of hues are extraordinary décor accents. Exquisite pottery, sea grass baskets and art of glass arouse touch and sight. For large works of The 5 Senses' pigskin glass wall hangings, go next door to Pietro's Prime.

Jewelry and silks are selected for scintillating style. Virginia silversmith Greg Sandage is exclusive to The 5 Senses, and West Grove resident Joan Nelson creates one-of-a-kind pieces in sterling and unique gemstones. Dichroic glass, wire, 14-karat gold, gemstone and bead jewelry is also showcased in the store.

Jonathan's® Spoons for any culinary need are carved from native Pennsylvania cherry. A group of *lazy spoons*® boast a notch to fit over pans and bowls. And who doesn't covet a *spootle* (serving spoon meets spatula)?

Sense of taste and smell are not forgotten. Whip out a wooden spoon and dip into Texas salsa, jelly or mustard from Cherith Valley Gardens. Try jams, finishing sauces and more from Bittersweet Herb Farm, or spice up veggies and meat with a variety of Hoboken Eddie's barbeque sauces.

As West Chester thrives, The 5 Senses follows suit. "This town is exciting and still on the rise. My intention has always been to complement the other retail businesses, not compete with them. We're all in this town together, and I love doing business here," concludes Cavin with a welcoming smile. •

The 5 Senses
133 West Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
610.719.0170
www.The5Senses.com



DDC
Dilworth's Custom Design

Come See Our Newly Remodeled Showroom, Minutes from Valley Forge

Custom Kitchens & Bathrooms
Granite/Quartz Countertops
Ceramic Tile and Hardwood Flooring
Family Owned & Operated Since 1990
Fully Insured
References Available

BBB NKBA

www.dilworthcustomdesign.com

Call For Your Free Design Consultation
610-917-9119

We Offer Full Turn-key Installations — NO SUBCONTRACTORS

HIC Reg. No. PA009417