Artist brings designs to indigo

Lately, I’ve been being drawn to indigo textiles. There’s something earthy and pretty about them and I’ve been scouring the Internet for new finds. Luckily, I didn’t have to go too far to discover the work of local textile artist Beth Mastrude. “I’ve been playing with fabric, color and design as long as I can remember,” says the 71-year-old who jokes that she’s become an overnight success of sorts. After being a single mother, environmental project manager, a student and more, nowadays, she’s able to put her energy into pursuing her artistic interests and our community has taken notice.

Although she started sewing in junior high, it wasn’t until 2007 that she took her first art class: it was in surface design at Cabrillo College. “I love the creative process: choosing cloth, patterns, making something beautiful, working with my hands,” she says. “In retirement, I find myself free to explore passions that I put aside while I was honoring my responsibilities to family.”

In 2013, after honing her skills at designing textiles, she moved into a workspace at 17th Avenue Studios in Santa Cruz and has since been showing her work publicly and teaching classes on indigo dyeing and shibori (a Japanese method of dyeing fabric).

“Nature is my muse,” she says. “I love the colors, textures and designs provided in the world. My process of creating textiles allows me to tell a story with my creations.”

Fabric artist Beth Mastrude teaches classes on dyeing fabric, including the Japanese technique known as ‘shibori.’

In October, Mastrude will be participating in Open Studios for the first time where the public will be able to visit her studio. In the meantime, learn more about this creative and inspiring artist at bethmastrude.com.