



MOONbow ARTworks
by Jen Otey

Virginia “Jen” Otey

276.620.0303

570 E. Spring St.
Wytheville, VA 24382

cottageartandmusic@gmail.com

Education

- Bachelor of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2000
- Bachelor of Education (PreK–6 Certification), Old Dominion University, 2014 (recertified 2019)
- Children’s Engineering / Elementary STEAM Certification, James Madison University / CTA, 2017
- Arts Integration Specialist Certification, California State University San Marcos / Education Closet, 2018

Professional Experience

Architectural Project Manager & Designer

Friends of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon, VA
March 2024 – Present

Engineering and Design Teacher (Grades 3–5 & Middle School STEAM)

Wythe County Public Schools, Wytheville, VA
January 2015 – Present

Owner, Director & Art Teacher

Rose Cottage School of Art / MOONbow ARTworks, Wytheville, VA
2003 – Present

Architectural Project Manager & Designer

J.A. Gibson and Associates Architects, Wytheville, VA
June 2009 – May 2012

Artistic & Professional Activities

- Founding Member & Board Chair, Forge Appalachia Fine and Folk Art Collective (nonprofit supporting regional arts access), 2023–Present
- Outdoor Recreation Development Manager, Friends of Southwest Virginia, 2024–Present
- Committee Chair, Chautauqua Festival of the Arts (Wythe Arts Council), 2014–2022
- Director, Art at the Crossroads Festival, Wytheville, VA, 2016–2025



MOONbow ARTworks
by Jen Otey

Virginia “Jen” Otey

276.620.0303

570 E. Spring St.
Wytheville, VA 24382

cottageartandmusic@gmail.com

- Owner & Instructor, Rose Cottage School of Art; coordinator of regional artisan workshops, 2015–2024
- Curriculum Developer, STEAM / Arts Integration, Virginia Department of Education, 2017
- Developer of middle school Engineering & Design curriculum, Wythe County Public Schools, 2018–2024

Affiliations & Juried Status

- Juried Member, Round the Mountain Artisan Network, 2023
- Juried Artisan Vendor, Birthplace of Country Music Museum Gift Shop, 2023
- Juried Artisan, John C. Campbell Folk School Craft Shop, 2024
- Artisan, Mark of the Potter Gallery, 2025

Exhibitions & Festivals (Selected)

- Art at the Crossroads (Juried Show), Wytheville, VA — 2016–2019, 2022–2025
- Hungry Mother Arts & Crafts Festival, Hungry Mother State Park — 2023, 2024
- *Animalia*, Art Fluent — 2023
- *Mini Worlds*, Holler House, Bristol, VA — 2023
- Fall Festival (Juried Vendor), John C. Campbell Folk School, NC — 2023–2025
- *Embodying Culture: Women in Appalachia*, Reece Museum — 2024
- *Earth First*, Floyd Center for the Arts — 2024
- *From These Hills*, William King Museum of Art — 2025
- Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands, Southern Highlands Craft Guild — 2025
- Eat/Art Space Yard Party, Johnson City, TN — 2025
- *Crafted in the Valley: Contemporary Voices in Appalachia*, Sweetwater Center for the Arts — 2026

Publications & Media

- Featured artist, *You’re Not Seeing Things (YNST Magazine)*, 2024
- Interviewed for PBS Appalachia Hometowns, aired December 2025



MOONbow ARTworks
by Jen Otey

Virginia “Jen” Otey

276.620.0303

570 E. Spring St.
Wytheville, VA 24382

cottageartandmusic@gmail.com

Lectures & Talks

- Invited Speaker, Emerging Potter, Southern Highlands Craft Guild Conference, Blue Ridge Parkway Folk Art Center, 2025

Awards & Fellowships

- Mid Atlantic Arts / Central Appalachian Living Traditions Fellowship (Bristol Roots Tradition Bearer), 2025–2026
- Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellowship (Appalachian Regional Commission), 2025-2026
- Virginia Rural Leadership Institute Fellowship (Virginia Rural Center), 2025

Public Art Commissions

- Murals, HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty’s Existence), 2020–2021
- Bull Mountain Arts Outdoor Mini Mural Show, Pickle and Ash, 2024

References

- Ellen Reynolds – beagleridge@gmail.com, 276-621-4511 – Owner of Beagle Ridge Herb Farm
- Katie Hoffman – katie@createappalachia.org, 423-329-4742 - Executive Director of Create Appalachia
- Erin Simons – esimons@myswva.org, 276-613-3556 - Artisan Engagement Specialist at Round the Mountain Artisan Network.
- Jody Gibson – jgibson@embarqmail.com, 276-620-3773 - Jody is a retired architect. I worked for her for many years as a project manager and architectural designer.