## For Crystal Manning, "Endless Inspiration Sparks Fresh Ideas"

"This isn't the path I was expecting to take," Crystal laughs, when asked how her career as a fabric designer began. Since releasing Wild Nectar, her first collection with Moda, this creative path that Crystal "stumbled into" has unfolded in delightful ways, allowing her to explore different styles and develop her own eclectic aesthetic with each new collection.

Prior to designing fabric, Crystal spent 10 years as a graphic designer; but producing catalogs and brochures "didn't fulfill my creative needs," she says. In her free time, she got involved in the art community as her creative outlet, and from there, learned about creating seamless patterns and art licensing.

Getting samples of her designs printed at Spoonflower inspi ed her to take up sewing. "My sister showed me how **b** make pillowcases," she says, but she taught herself from there, focusing at first



One of Crystal's first sewing ad entures: attempting pajama pants for her husband, Jeff. She said, "I was having a laugh till you cry moment."



Crystal wearing a blouse she made from her fabric collection, Garden Society. Pattern -The Roscoe Blouse by True Bias.

on mostly garment sewing. Crystal quickly fell in love with sewing and "the soothing sound of the hum of the sewing machine" – though she's quick to mention that it wasn't always smooth sailing, chuckling at the memory of an ill-fated attempt at making pajama pants for her husband.

But by 2016, she was using her Spoonflower printed designs to sew samples for indie apparel pattern designers like Lindsey Rae of Sew to Grow, who invited Crystal to attend a quilt market with her. Crystal met with Moda's design team at that market and joined the Moda family of designers not long after that!

## Each Collection Is "Like Starting a New Painting"

Though Crystal's collections always feature beautiful nature-inspired flo als, you'd be hard-pressed to pigeonhole her aesthetic or her inspiration into one neat little category. "Moda has allowed me to just be creative," Crystal says appreciatively. "They haven't really given me any restrictions." From famous chefs to 1980s pop art to seasonal landscapes, Crystal finds her inspiation "just about everywhere" and interprets that inspiration into unique collections bursting with color. She typically introduces an entirely new palette with each collection, although almost every collection features a shade of teal. "It's hard for me to design a collection without some form of teal!" she says with a laugh.

For Parlor, Crystal wanted to create a collection reminiscent of an interior design picture she found. "It was a boho-style room that was rich with texture and felt like a cozy, artistic space – I wanted to capture that," she explains. The prints themselves were inspired by vintage fabrics she found on an antiquing adventure with her mother and sister.

The result is a collection brimming with texture, from layered and paisley-styled flo als to geometric mandalas and ikatinspired diamonds, all in a jewel-bned palette in shades of teal, dijon, pesto, passion fruit, azalea, and plum.

## **Growing In New Directions**

Though the details aren't set in stone, Crystal shared some hints as to what might inspire a future collection. As an artist,



Crystal and her husband, Jeff.

Crystal designs her collections using a mix of traditional and digital techniques. "I like to sketch and paint my flo als first, o decide how I want them to look," she says, before digitizing and finalizing her designs. "I like the natural look of a brush." But she is always growing in her art and says that she's been learning more about gouache in the hopes of creating a collection in more of a "painterly" style, perhaps inspired by her love of plein air painting and the pops of color in her favorite flowers and ga dens. She also shared that her sewing bucket list includes doing more applique projects.

Whatever the source of inspiration, Crystal says, her goal is simple: to make people feel happy. "I like to use my artistic abilities to inspire others to make things that bring them joy!" We're just happy that Crystal's creative path led her to Moda!

Find joy in the journey with Crystal by visiting her website, crystalmanningart.com, and following her on Instagram at @cmanningsews.



Step into the warmth of Parlor, a fabric collection that feels like an inviting room filled with s ories, laughter, and layers of color. With a vibrant, bohemian spirit, Parlor blends rich flo als, intricate patterns, and eclectic hues that bring life to any quilting project. Inspired by cozy gatherings and well-loved heirlooms, this collection evokes a sense of comfort while sparking creativity.

The brilliant flo als and textures are perfect for bold patchwork, statement quilt backs, or charming home décor. Let Parlor fill our sewing space with vibrant energy, turning each quilt into a reflection of j y, warmth, and the beauty of handmade traditions.

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**Bella Solid Coordinates** 

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11966 21\*

11962 20\*

11963 26\*

11967 16

11963 1



11965 22\*



11962 15

11964 16\*







AB includes all 27 skus. JRs, LCs, MCs & PPs include 27 skus with two each of 11960, 11961, 11963 & 11966. Assortments and precuts do not include Bella Solid Coordinates.







TB 188 Swoon Sixteen 74" x 74" by Thimble Blossoms 11960



SS 563 Lucy 61" x 78" by Splendid Speck



**KTQ 164** The Phoebe Quilt 56" x 70" JR Friendly by Kitchen Table Quilting



**CMA 896** Indie Blooms 60" x 74" by Crystal Manning Art



**CMA 897** Patchouli 60" x 67" LC Friendly by Crystal Manning Art



**CMA 898** Saffron and Sage 60" x 60" by Crystal Manning Art



**PS11960** Boho Gem Pillow 18" x 18" MC Friendly by Crystal Manning Art

moda 9