

Heartstring Quilters

From the Editor

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Upcoming Meetings:

May 10th: Care of Sewing Machines
June 12: Potluck!

We have certainly had an inspiring month, with the exhibition of the wonderful quilts in the ArtQuilt Elements show. Perhaps like me, you took a friend to the exhibition who is not familiar with fabric or art quilts. If you did, you had an opportunity to introduce the essential components of quilts -- and remind yourself of them. A visit was a chance to appreciate what the art pieces retained from traditional quilts, and really enjoy and find inspiration in the very inventive techniques that many artists used. Some of the memorable methods were the various kinds of layering and trapping elements such as snips of fabric or individual feathers under a sheer overlay.

When something as simple as a stitch is made by hand and repeated with concentration or passion over a large area, viewers can sense the dedication and time that were put into the art. The AQE show celebrated the great variety of construction, color palettes, and ornamentation that quilts are made from. For quilt makers who are looking for new approaches, an exhibition of quilts like this is a treasure trove. However, the basic methods of making color and shape are really the channel or means toward something else -- the overall statement.

Fortunately, like many other art forms, quilt making has the capacity to resonate on at least two levels: A quilt can embody simply the *process* of building, and/or it can live as a finished product that has a **message**. It is a wonderful thing to enjoy the journey of piecing or stitching moment by moment for its own sake, or to nurture a meditative practice through the craft. Experimenting with a tool other than a scissor or

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May Meeting

On May 10th, we will have a presentation by Kathryn Greerm, proprietress of Fabrics On The Hill in Chestnut Hill, on the "Care and Feeding of Sewing Machines." We will learn how to maintain and operate our machines for maximum functionality.

Heartstring Quilters

The newsletter of Heartstring Quilters is published monthly. Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:15 PM when there is a speaker, and 7:30 PM if there is no speaker.

Membership dues are \$25/year
Guest fee is \$3, or \$5 when there is a speaker.

Officers & Committees

Presidents:

Suzan Hirsch and
Robin Levenberg

Co-Secretaries:

Judy Fliegelman and
Marcy George

Treasurer: Susan Soiferman

Assistant Treasurer: Martha Klein

Hospitality: Lida Pos Klesius

Programs: (In Transition)

Newsletter:

Elizabeth Van Schaick

Membership: Karoline Wallace

Raffle: Terri Ciampitti

Website: Karoline Wallace

Sunshine: Soryl Angel

Newsletter Submissions

Send items for newsletter, announcements and information from other guilds, etc. by the 18th of each month to Elizabeth Van Schaick at:
skoik@comcast.net

Please make sure submissions have been proofread and are free of unnecessary formatting.

BOOKS ON MIXED MEDIA ART

Collage, Assemblage and Altered Art: Creating Unique Images and Objects by Diane Maurer-Mathison. (Watson-Guptill Publications, 2007). Covers collage, assemblages such as dolls, jewelry, shadowboxes, and altered art. Each section ends with a gallery, and there are spot profiles on specific artists. Instructions for marbling and monoprinting are also included. Though the book holds a lot of inspiration and instruction, some of the photographs of processes are quite small.

Mixed Media Collage: An Exploration of Contemporary Artists, Methods and Materials by Holly Harrison. (Quarry Books, 2007). In Section One, each chapter focuses on a technique shown by one of five artists. Section Two features a gallery of numerous artists' work and three essays: "Brainstorming with Scissors and Glue" by Jennifer Cruise, "Why I Never Graduated Collage" by Alisa Kwitney, and "How the Internet Is Changing the Lives Of Contemporary Artists" by Holly Harrison.

Semiprecious Salvage: Creating Found-Art Jewelry by Stephanie Lee. (Northlight Books, 2008). This project-based book has twenty-five short chapters on unique pieces to wear. There are a lot of off-beat materials and construction methods that produce great objects. However, some of the techniques, such as using a torch, etching solution, dremmel tool or soldering equipment, may be too involved or hazardous for many crafters. The most interesting thing about the book is that each project is accompanied by a narrative. These stories told by a fictional archaeologist/traveller explain the origins of the piece of jewelry. Similar in spirit and general style to Michael deMong's *Secrets Of Rusty Things*.


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thread keeps possibilities for imagery alive. But it is probably best if the methods do not dominate at the expense of a larger design or concept. In other words, we quilters ask “how?” quite often, but do we ask “what?” and “why?” enough? During the Surface Design Association/Studio Art Quilt Associates conference, Michael James touched on this topic in his lecture, “Making Making Matter”:

How it is made is the least of what art is worth. What it says is what it is worth.

Of course this does not mean that the activity itself (selecting fabric, cutting, piecing, layering, quilting) can't be the theme -- particularly if the quilt maker continues to be dedicated to it as a response to life's ups and downs. The question is how to be mindful of the story we are telling, or could be telling.

Coincidentally, as I was considering this idea, I saw a blurb describing a new website: **www.storiesofcloth.com**. The site, launched by a visual artist and a photographer, explores how textiles are incorporated into personal memories and life events in different cultures. Anyone can share a memory and a piece of textile art on the site. Every person we meet, the one we click with, the we don't click with, has a story -- or more than one! Go ahead and do some dreaming about how you would describe a textile that has been important to you, or how you would portray your story in a quilt.

Elizabeth 

Dear Heartstring Guild,

We would like to send out a big hug to this wonderful guild for the support and enthusiasm that you give to the ArtQuilt Elements exhibition, now and forever housed at the Wayne Art Center. To those of you who went those extra steps to distribute postcards and posters for us, a huge thanks. That is such an important part of our marketing effort and we so appreciate the time and energy you give to help us with that job. The exhibition has received rave reviews. Victoria Donohue from the Inquirer wrote:

“An astonishing achievement, it's one of the handsomest exhibits to grace the western suburbs in decades... Not to be missed.”

I do believe she got it just right!!!
Thanks again,

Debbie, Cindy, Suzan,
Shawn and Margo

Refreshments

May:

Terri Ciampetti....Beverage/snack

Lucille Clark:.....savory

Margo Clyma....dessert/sweets

June:

POTLUCK! Sign up at May meeting.

If your name appears in the newsletter for next month's refreshments and you will not be able to provide them, please contact another member to take your place. The refreshments responsibility is rotated in alphabetical order. If you do need to switch with another member, please notify the hospitality chairperson, Lida Pos Klesius at aklesius1@comcast.net

April Meeting Minutes

Our meeting took place at The Wayne Art Center so we could all admire the fantastic exhibit of Art Quilt Elements. What an amazing show. Special thanks to Debbie Schwartzman for being our guru and guide to the quilts and the artists who created them. Margo Clyma was able to add information about the creation of the exhibited quilts.

*Annie Cohen informed us that LBBC would allow us to sell pins at their May 3rd event and we need some volunteers to sell pins. More information at next meeting.

*Our Treasurer, Susan Soiferman, has given a check to LBBC and it was suggested that the money go toward a scholarship fund for LBBC.

*It was lovely to see Tracy Kuehn, long time Heartstrings member and to welcome Sherri Joyce King as a brand new member.

*Our fearless Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Van Schaick asked that news articles please reach her by the 16th or 17th of each month so that she has enough time to gather and organize information for the newsletter.

*Our May meeting will feature Katherine Greer, from Fabrics On the Hill. She will talk about care and feeding of our important sewing machines.

*In June we will have our closing POTLUCK DINNER at the home of Suzan Hirsch. The party will include a fabric swap, so bring fabric and other quilting items you no longer find exciting or useful. This includes books and magazines as well as stash.

Suzan Hirsch brought in the only Show and Tell piece of the evening. She showed a gorgeous silk rose on teal and a violet pansy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Fliegelman

**Mainline Quilters Guild: Silk Scarf Workshop
with
Lacey J. Hill.
MAY 15th!**

At Marriott in Devon. See Calendar for information.

Please bring a mini iron only and pressing pad to share at the pressing station. Small to medium cutting tools. Space is limited in the room at the Marriott. Lamps & extension cords are welcome. The silk scarf kit is all inclusive except for thread, embellishments and a sewing machine. Kit cost \$15 payable to instructor. The kit includes the silk, foundation and pattern. Bring neutral thread for piecing and a small assortment of colors for any top stitching, along with rotary cutter, mat, ruler, iron and sewing machine. You are welcome to share needles, threads, trims.

Around the Guilds

Love Apple Quilters

<http://www.loveapplequilters.com>

May: Nancy Kerns, lecture 'My Appliqué Evolution.'

Learn how to make wonderful Baltimore Album Appliqué Blocks. Nancy will show some of her beautiful work.

June: Guild quilt show boutique sew-in.

Undercover Quilters

<http://www.undercoverquilters.com>

May: Sharon Chamber, two-time Best of Show winner at Paducah. www.sharonschamber.com

June: Social and dinner

Valley Forge Homestead Quilters

<http://www.valleyforgequilters.org>

May: Helpful gadgets to make your job easier, with Beth Quigley and Judy Snook. Longarm quilter, Shellie Blake, will explain what you need to do and say when you bring your quilt to a longarm quilter to be finished.

Main Line Quilters

<http://www.mainlinequilters.org>

May: Silk Scarf Workshop and Jacket Lecture/Fashion Show. Details below.

Calendar of Events

May 15, Japanese Silk Scarf Workshop with Lacey J. Hill. 1-4 pm. This is a unique opportunity to learn silk construction techniques from an expert and come away with a lovely piece you can use in your spring wardrobe. \$20 plus kit fee of \$15 Please visit MLQ website mainlinequilters.org or contact Ruth at 610 688 5388.

May 16, 9:30 am Jackets That Fit Your Style Lecture and Fashion Show by Lacey J. Hill. At Marriott in Devon. Approximately 20 to 25 jackets will be presented.

Through June 1: Warm Spirits: Contemporary African American Quilters. The African American Museum of Philadelphia, 701 Arch Street, Phila., Pa 19106. 215.574.0380
Tues - Sat 10:00 - 5:00/Sun - 12:00 - 5:00. Christina Johnson has 2 quilts hanging.

June 12 - 14, 2008 NJ Quilt Convention at the NJ Convention & Expo Center in Edison, NJ. 500 plus quilts, wearables and special exhibits, vendors, hourly demos, and kids interactive area. Presented by The State Quilt Guild of NJ, Inc. For information call Debbie Stanley at 732-591-0257 or visit www.NJQuilts.org.

July 24 - 27, 2008, Quilt Odyssey 2008 at Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA. For information call 717-423-5148 or visit www.quiltodyssey.com or write to quiltodyssey@embarqmail.com.

Through Sept. 16th, A Quilt Sampler at Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester, PA. Includes a pieced silk quilt, autograph quilt, album quilt top, whitework quilt, Civil War applique quilt, all from the early to late 1800s. 610-692-4800.
www.chestercohistorical.org.

Through Sept. 18th, Blue at The Textile Museum 2320 S Street, Washington DC. 202-667-0441. www.textilemuseum.org. Exhibition on the meaning of color and indigo dying. A film, Blue Alchemy: Stories of Indigo, is also playing.