

SAQA CT Newsletter

...promoting the art quilt and the artists who create them

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Special Interest Group (SIG): Professional Online Presence (POP)

MODERATED BY MEL BEACH, JULIA GRAVES,
AND SHEARA SEIGAL

This NEW Short-Term Special Interest Group (SIG) will occur over the next 4 months with participants working towards these monthly goals:

1. Determine your goals for your own online presence (May)
2. Identify your target customer/audience (May/June)
3. Create/improve a website that works for your business goals and your customer (June)
4. Use social media to engage with your customer (July)
5. Stay connected with your followers through e-

Want to learn more? [Join our closed Facebook group just for this SIG](#)

Mark your calendar to join the monthly Zoom networking sessions scheduled 12 PM ET (UTC/GMT -4) and 7 PM ET (UTC/GMT -4) on these 4 dates:

May 20, 2021

Jun 17, 2021

Jul 15, 2021

Aug 19, 2021

You do not have to attend both meetings - just pick the one that fits your schedule.

SAQA CT Regional Meeting on July 10th, 2021 @ 10:00

Heather Pregger, co-chair of SAQA's Exhibition committee, will be sharing a slide show covering SAQA's policies on exhibitions in general, focusing on originality. Following a presentation on inspiration as opposed to emulation with examples, Heather will take questions on the topic.

Mark your calendars!!

Sneak peek: September 11, 2021 Dorothy Raymond discusses "copyright"

Artist Spotlight is on Laurie Russman! NeonKittyquilts

What life experiences & skills do you feel you bring into your artwork?

Like so many of us, I learned to sew from my mom; as I recall, some really scary garments) (after all, it was the '70s...). Fast forward a few decades, when my daughter's American Girl doll required a blanket...and my working-mother-guilt led me to say, ha, I can do better than a blanket. My research led me to The City Quilter in NYC's Chelsea neighborhood and I was hooked from that moment. With a career on Wall Street, I had never taken a single art class - but that moment of walking into a quilt shop for the first time awakened my long-dormant right-side brain.



The only skill I brought with me was that (invaluable) sewing machine experience, but my inherent curiosity of "what if I try this?" led me from traditional patchwork quilting to our world. I tend to plunge into new things, which can be a very helpful attitude to take while creating art quilts!

Where do you do most of your artwork?

I work primarily from photos so the first step of my art happens wherever my iPhone happens to find a terrific picture. This idea stage is very portable as I use Procreate on my iPad to create a quilt design from the original image; it can change quite dramatically by the time I'm done with it. When it comes to quilt construction, I am blessed with a really lovely studio in the loft of our home. My fabrics (mostly batiks) and thread stash (mostly Aurifil) form bright rainbows along the shelves and moldings - one of the hallmarks of my work is vivid color! This room is my joyful place and has room for an enormous sewing table for my Bernina, a large cutting table, a rolling pressing station and a mostly-unused-now longarm (whose studio table holds any overflow.) There is an interior window through which I can peek and see what Eliot is cooking for dinner). My studio is a testament to just how much you can squeeze into a small space with the right design.

What are you most proud of when it comes to your artwork?

Oddly, not getting published or juried into shows (although those are wonderful). I am most proud of my ability to bring joy to the viewer, whether it is a pet owner whose best friend's personality is captured in my portrait or someone who responds to a landscape with "yes! I must have that!" Another example is my Joy Quilt Project, during which I posted a new square every few days during the pandemic; complete strangers messaged me on Instagram to say how much they looked forward to my posts. Mission accomplished.

What/Who inspires you?

What: nature and (surprise!) pets...color...odd angles which might make fun neon images.

Who: our own Kate Themel, of course...Judy Coates Perez...Alicia Merrett... Janine Vangool of Uppercase mag/books/fabric

Which do you enjoy more: the process or the results?

What a terrific and difficult question! Perhaps the process...those days when I really tap into that 'flow' state and I feel as if the quilt is telling what it needs next. I rarely preplan in detail, so most of my pieces feel like a journey towards an unknown destination. The broad strokes of a quilt are decided in Procreate but then...working intuitively, building a scene with MistyFused pieces (which can be repositioned if necessary), choosing a thread palette, stitching the piece then adding more detail with thread and ink...yes, definitely the best part.





Gallery 53 2021 Textile Show

"Inches of Stitches"



BEST IN SHOW

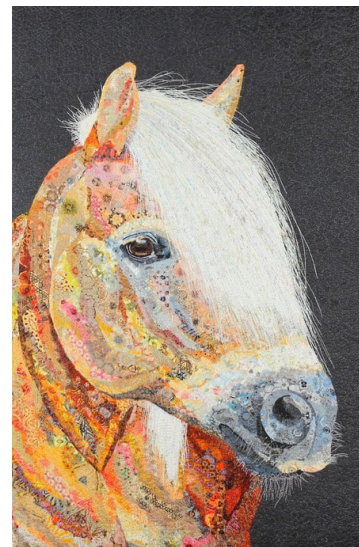
John Melescinsky Memorial Award

Paula Klingerman, "Alpha of the Delta"



3rd Place: Barbara Danzi

"More Rainbow Less Cloud"



2nd Place: Dawn Allen, "Mallory"



1st Place: Kathy Nutley

"Dream Catcher"



Janet Roone

"New Fish in the Pond"



Kathleen Burns

"Milford PT I"



Christina Blais

"Homage to the Dutchman"

SAQA CT Retreat—Is ON and is IN PERSON!

Registration is now open for the 4th Annual SAQA CT Retreat!

Use the link below to get details, register and pay for the retreat.

Dates: November 12-14, 2021

Place: Incarnation Center, Ivoryton

There is one main difference between this year's retreat and the past in-person retreats. There is no early registration. This gives everyone the most flexibility to plan, and perhaps change their plans to attend as they see fit, given where we are in COVID world.

Everyone who has attended in the past has re-joined the retreat— it's that wonderful of a time!

So, plan your project, pack your jammies, and we will see you in November!

The price is \$225 for SAQA members, \$250 for non-SAQA members, it includes lodging, bedding, and six meals to accommodate the gluten– free, vegetarian and non-special diets.

Here is the link:

<https://saqa.z2systems.com/event.jsp?event=2108&>



2021 SAQA Benefit Auction Call for submissions!



Fabienne Peter Coneisse
Glacier Series Mini II

Deadline for entry is June 30, 2021.

Be a part of SAQA's most anticipated event!

Donate a 12 x 12-inch art quilt to support our exhibition and outreach programs. This year's [Benefit Auction](#) will take place online from September 10 through October 3.

Questions? Please email [auc-](#)



Roberta Lagomarisini
Early Fall

Artistic Discussions : upcoming!

June 2: Danny Amazonas

June 9: Wen Redmond

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81491260938?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81491260938?pwd=WU5RWmxuN0lGdytiZWpxaU4zUIA3QT09)
[pwd=WU5RWmxuN0lGdytiZWpxaU4z](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81491260938?pwd=WU5RWmxuN0lGdytiZWpxaU4zUIA3QT09)
[UIA3QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81491260938?pwd=WU5RWmxuN0lGdytiZWpxaU4zUIA3QT09)

Meeting ID: 814 9126 0938

Passcode: 134342



Harriet Cheney invites you to participate in an ongoing participatory art installation entitled ***“The Receptacle Project!”***, her response to the trauma felt this past year and to the extreme attitudes and acts darkening our days.

Simply write a positive message on a slip of paper. It can be a blessing for the universe or a wish for personal growth. For instance, I want to be less judgmental, or I’m going to pay more attention to a person struggling with loneliness. These should be sealed for privacy. They will just be with other positive messages within the receptacles. My intention is that the energy generated by so many positive thoughts will counter negativity and help heal the world. We can — at least — give it a try.

Mail your message to: The Receptacle Project, PO Box 117, Ardsley, NY, 10502-0117

Welcome News:

The Local Color 5 co-chairs have secured 2 more venues for LC5. Greenwich Art Society is set for May 2022 and Windham

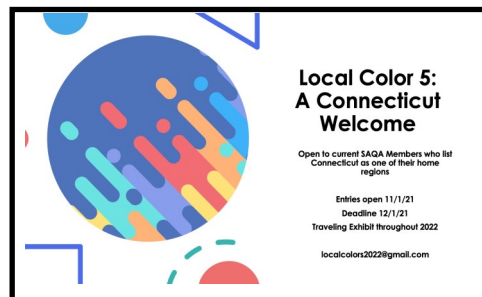
Textile & History Museum is booked for August 2022.

So the LC5 schedule will be:

Premiere at Guilford Art Center in Feb

Greenwich in May

WTHM in August



The next in-person SAQA conference "[Bridging the Gulf: Fabric to Fine Art](#)" in St. Petersburg, Florida, will take place April 28-May 1, 2022.

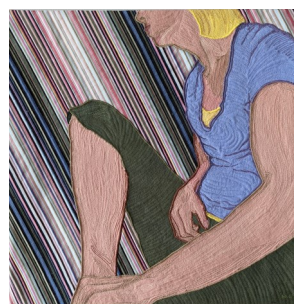
Member News:



Normajeon Brevik shared: I'm am so pleased that my tiny pin cushion was selected to be in the next issue of Quilting Arts magazine in the "Put A Pin In It" challenge.

Way to go, Normajeon!

Margaret Phillips shared: My quilt, "Purple Annie", has been accepted into The Handweavers Guild of America 2021 Small Expressions exhibit. It will be traveling to several venues in the next year. Photo attached.



Diane Cadrain shared: Connecticut Women Artists is inviting all women artists living in the United States to enter its national open juried exhibition. Work in all media, including painting, mixed media, drawing, collage, printmaking, fiber art, photography, and sculpture are eligible. Deadline for entry is Wednesday, July 7, at midnight. Enter via Online Juried Shows at <https://www.onlinejuriedshows.com/Default.aspx?OJSID=49292>. The show itself will be exhibited at the ArtsCenter East, 709 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT, from August 21 to September 10, 2021, with an opening reception on August 21, 2021, from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission into two of Connecticut Women Artists' national open juried exhibitions automatically entitles membership in the group.



THE DAIRY BARN ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

QUILT NATIONAL '21
THE BEST OF CONTEMPORARY QUILTS

MAY 29 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2021
Closing Reception: Friday, September 3

Cathy Smith shared:

Join the virtual watch party on Friday, May 28 at 5pm. The event will stream live on YouTube! Follow our channel to join the party where you can watch and comment live.



Clara Nartey shared:

Her work - "The Gele Skyscraper" was juried into Form, Not Function at the Carnegie Center in IN.

It won the award for Creative Stitching.



Photo by Janet Mainley

SAQA—100 Days Part IV: A private Facebook group of 481 members!

Welcome to Jump into June!

How to play:

Choose a focus and create "blocks" resulting in a finished project, or experiment with concepts or techniques. Or both. It's your choice.

Choose a size, or don't. There are no size requirements.

Stick to the same technique or try something new. There is no restriction on the medium used.

Share your art on the group Facebook page. You can receive friendly feedback and make new friends.

Comment on other members' art. It will make them happy.

Post a photo every day. It's okay if you miss days, but we'll be happy when you return.

The Rules:

Please keep your comments civil and refrain from discussing politics and personal issues.

Try to post only one image a day.

Enjoy the challenges and opportunities you give yourself.

Member News: Clara Nartey shared:

JUNETEENTH

The Art of Independence

June 7 - July 30, 2021

Weekdays (10a-4p) & 2nd Saturdays 6/12 & 7/10 (10a-2p)



Clara Nartey

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Galleries
@
WORK_SPACE

The Finish Line

Christina Blais

Introduction to Mounting on Stretcher Bars and Canvas

Mounting on stretcher bars or pre-stretched artist canvases can give a tailored look to your work.

Stretcher Bars are individual slats with grooves. Purchase two at your *finished* width, and two at your *finished* length. Slip the grooved ends together to make a frame.

Advantages:

- Inexpensive (\$1 to \$6 per length)
- Many lengths: 12, 13, 14, 15 ...inches (up to 60)



Disadvantages:

- You have to make sure they corners are square, and they like to wiggle on you
- The larger you go, the harder it is to not have your quilt “sink” into the center.
There is a work-around which I will write about next week.

Pre-Stretched Canvas is canvas, stretched onto a frame generally used by painters.

Advantages:

- No “sinking” because your quilt will rest on the taut canvas
- 90 degree corners
- Cost effective in multi-packs
- Linen colored canvas could look nice with your work



Disadvantages:

- Cost is significant when you go big; a 40 by 40 stretched canvas is at at least \$60
- Your quilting will not be visible from the back
- Some pre-stretched canvases have bumpy corners—which will grow when you cover them with a few layers of fabric
- The white color could clash with your work: edges need to be painted

Advantages and Disadvantages to both methods:

- Easy to hang, and they are meant to hang: eye hooks into the wood, and wire: all set. No sleeves, no sticks.
- Can't roll up the quilts; transport is trickier
- Lose some tactile presence, lose “quiltiness.”
- Both options have sub-options: attaching quilt to frame with Velcro, slip stitching just the top of the quilt to the frame, gluing the quilt to the canvas, sewing the quilt to a background that gets wrapped to the frame....Stay tuned til next month and we will get into the nitty-gritty!