

# SAQA CT Newsletter

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

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## Changing It UP!

*Beginning November 7,  
SAQA CT Regional  
meetings will be held on  
a bi-monthly basis. All  
dates will be on the first  
Saturday of the month  
unless a holiday takes  
precedence. Meetings  
will be held via Zoom.  
Please put the following  
dates in your calendar:  
November 7, 2020  
January 9, 2021  
Which will take us into  
the New Year!*



We might not be able to celebrate together in Houston this year but great news - **we are bringing the party to YOU!**

Join us on October 30th for our annual SAQA Member pARTy. This years event will take place online via [Zoom](#).

- The party officially starts at 5pm EDT (GMT/UTC -4) but our virtual doors will Get the latest SAQA scoop from our president Deborah Boschert
- Connect with other members in small group discussions about art and creativity

Watch brand-new videos about SAQA Global Exhibitions [Ebb & Flow](#) and [Beyond the Mirror](#)

- Be eligible to win great door prizes from SAQA and our partners
- Bring a piece of fabric that is meaningful to you (can be anything, even a piece of clothing)
- Wear something ARTful and bring your own snacks. Virtual drinks are on us!

This event is open to all SAQA members - feel free to invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

**\*\*open at 4:45pm. Come early and mingle!**



What would you do with this piece of fabric? We all have our special techniques, favorite materials and artistic visions. Would you consider being featured for a short segment during a SAQA CT meeting to show members what else is possible? What a great way to market your skills!

# ***The Artist Spotlight is on Christina Blais***

## ***What life experiences and skills do I bring into my artwork?***

*My experience with sewing was formed through 4-H. I was fortunate to have women in my community willing to teach skills to wiggling and giggling nine year olds up through moody teenagers!*

*From 4-H, I learned that with each project you learn a new skill, that at the completion of a project, you showed/modeled it, you were exposed to what you could achieve, and finally, there was a reward at the end; in my case, a stop at Friendly's Ice Cream.*

*Each year, our sewing projects became a little more advanced: from straight stitching an apron, to sewing in zip-pers, facings, collars, buttons and buttonholes, to tailoring. Each Spring there was a county-wide event called Dress Review, where we modeled our sewing projects. At the end of the show the older girls modeled the prom dresses they had made, and it was an absolute thrill for this nine, ten and eleven-year old girl to see what was on my own horizon. Dress Review was always on a school night, however, my mom could be persuaded to let us stay and watch Dress Review until after the prom dresses, and to stop to get an ice cream cone on the way home.*

*So, I learned that in sewing, you add one more skill or challenge to each project, that it was important to share your work, and that rewards would follow.*

## ***Where do I do most of my work?***

*My physical work space has had quite a trajectory. I started out in my basement with bad lighting and cold floors. This was where I made my first three art quilts, in the Local Color 1 days. I had very little fabric, and vowed not to ever have a "stash."*

*Just a 15 minute drive from my house, an art studio in the American Fabrics Art Building in Bridgeport became available. The space was 20 feet by 20 feet by 20 foot ceilings. With all my "stuff," including a 4 by 8 foot laminate work table, there was still enough room to hold a square dance if you wanted!*

*One early morning at the studio, my husband called and told me that he had been laid off. As we re-grouped, I said "I'll work from home." He said "No, you're not!" I moved to a tiny studio in the NEST Arts Factory, also in Bridgeport. I think it was about 10 by 10 feet; usable wall space wasn't great, and four feet had to be chopped off from my work table. That was sad. I made the space work, and eventually, moved into a larger studio in that same building. The NEST started going through some landlord changes, and I thought it was time to find a new place to work.*



Learning how to make brushstrokes



*I have taken over the TV room of my house (and I store stash in basement). This room is a converted one-car garage. I have great light, access from the outside without going through my house, and a private bathroom. This has been a great set-up for times when I teach or have visitors. I am like Goldilocks: from a studio too big (is that possible?), to too small, to just right. I am deliriously happy here.*

### **What I am most proud of when it comes to my work.**

*I am most proud of when I find a novel (for me) way of solving a problem. I am proud of how I figured out how to make a shadow appear under a man's collar, when I figured out how to make brush strokes in Van Gogh Dog, when I was able to free motion quilt a halo of dog bones around the Chien Blanc's head.*

### **Which do I enjoy more? The process or the results?**

*This is a tough question. At times, I absolutely hate the process: maneuvering work through a sewing machine, facing tough problems, trying to keep the same feel throughout an entire piece. I don't have an art background; I don't think I have ever taken an art class, so I don't feel this work is "natural" for me. I figure a lot of things out before I start, and keep figuring things out as I go. However, when I am in the groove, I can feel delight.*

*I do enjoy taking a concept, such as grief, or happiness, and deciding how to represent that visually. The pre-work!*

*If I head in the wrong direction, I won't finish a piece. So, any piece that I have finished, I like and enjoy.*

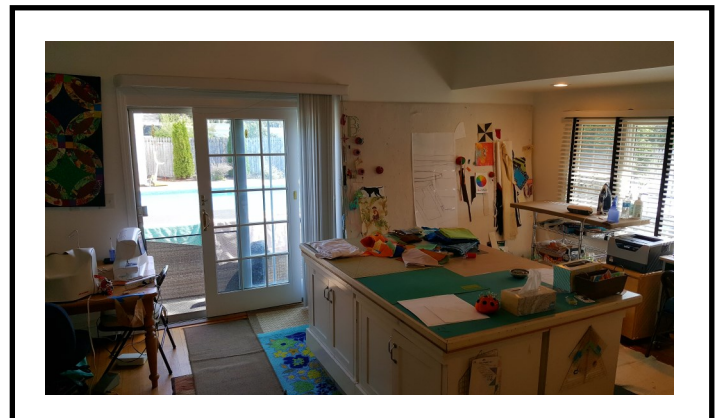


Note the nice shadow under his collar! Took me a week to figure this out!



Notice the halo of dog biscuits!

### **Christina's Studio**



### **What/who inspires me:**

*I am inspired by my fellow SAQA members, in CT and world-wide. Everyone has something to share, be it a viewpoint, a technique, or a story.*

*I am inspired by people who have a "studio practice" of regular work hours. That is not me, right now.*

*I am inspired by artists who overcome physical and mental handicaps to produce their work.*

*I am inspired by the art masters. I am inspired by people who work "large".*

*Finally, I am mostly inspired by those artists who use everyday materials to create something out of this world.*



**Laura Lugo**  
**SAQA CT Regional Rep**

*Laura Lugo has been quilting for over 14 years and made the switch to art quilts a few years ago. "I was looking for more freedom to express myself and experiment in ways traditional quilting doesn't offer. Then I discovered SAQA and a new world opened up...literally." Known for her love of trims, embellishments and whimsy, Laura creates in her studio in Fairfield with her beloved dog, Sammy. "The kids have flown the coop and now it's my turn to make a mess!"*

## **2020 Retreat!**

***Our annual SAQA retreat is on!***

*Mark your calendars for Friday, October 30 through noon time, November 1!*

*This year, you will*

*Provide your own lodging!*

*Provide your own meals!*

*Do your own dishes (or not)!*

*Have all your supplies in reach and not have to lug them!*

*And....the retreat is **free!***

*We will come together, through Zoom, during scheduled times during the weekend for:*

***Show and Tell   Critique Group   Skill Share   Guest Speakers   Happy Hour***

*Like our previous two retreats, the schedule and participation are totally up to you! When you want to join in, join us! Need a break? Take one. We are developing two projects that you could decide to work on along with the others.*

*If you have been to our past retreats, you know how much they were filled with enthusiasm, good cheer and camaraderie. If you haven't been on our retreat – here is a chance to get to know us and other new people.*

*Details will follow for registration, our group project and the schedule of events for the weekend!*



*Fabrics, patterns, tools and workshops don't happen by magic...designers make it look as if they do. If you're like me you'd love a sneak peek behind the scenes to see what really goes on before any finished and polished product is presented to the public. The link below will take you on an eye-opening tour of several quilt designer's studios, many of whom you're familiar with and have purchased designs from. So grab a cuppa and get comfortable.... You're about to see where it all begins.....take a peek into Nancy Scott's studio and link to others.*

<https://masterpiecequilting.blogspot.com/2020/05/lets-be-real-studio-tour.html>



A studio view from  
Edyta Sitar from  
Laundry Basket  
Quilts.

*We invite you to participate in a SAQA CT tour of art quilters studios. All you need do is let us know you'd like to be featured and send us photos with a bit of information on how your studio blends into your process. This can include your design wall, your favorite tools and materials, fabric storage, etc. and of course our beloved quilting companions, our pets.*

*Send your information to:*

*[knutley1223@gmail.com](mailto:knutley1223@gmail.com).*

*Come on...join in!*

## **Call for Show & Tell**

*What are you working on? What have you finished? Are you trying a new technique? A new tool? Let us know! Send along a photo and a few sentences to share with members. Send your photo and information to [knutley1223@gmail.com](mailto:knutley1223@gmail.com) to have it included in the next newsletter and displayed during a Zoom meeting.*

### **SAQA CT October 2020 Wed "This & That" Zoom meetings**

Time: Oct 7, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time *Notice the new time!*

Oct 14, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 21, 2020 10:00 AM

Oct 28, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82116828900?pwd=YjllRGJiS21DMnU5MVI4RklhbFAyZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 1682 8900

Passcode: 902291

### ***"Friends Fabulous Fabric Fantasy aka The "F" Challenge"***

Each month there will be a prompt (topic) announced at the first Wednesday zoom meeting of the month. Each participant will create a block using the block subject. It is up to you how to interpret it. As an example, if the prompt was to use a shape, you would create a block using that shape. It may be compressed, elongated, multiplied, be a positive or a negative, layered, overlapping, mirror image, a shape within a shape or any configuration, size or color you choose. It may be complex or simple, embellished or plain. It may take as much time as you like or as little as ten minutes. The next month we will show our work and receive prompt #2.

It will be interesting to see the varied interpretations. We love a good show & tell!

*This and all challenges are strictly voluntary but we hope you'll join us both for the meetings and the challenges. Do you have an idea for a challenge?*



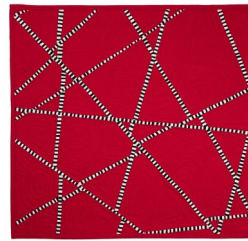
## *SAQA Benefit Auction 2020 pieces from 7 CT members!*



Lin Elmo  
Partners with a Purpose



Catherine Whall Smith  
Please...join us



Norma Schlager  
Fractured VII



Margaret Phillips  
Marie Yovanovitch  
Former Ambassador to  
Ukraine



Martha Sielman  
Jaybird Street



Aurelle Locke  
The Royals



Carol Capozzoli  
Biophotonic Communication I



The SAQA Florida Region presents a multi-disciplinary collaborative project to celebrate Florida's waters as part of the 2022 SAQA Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Artwork will NOT be returned to the artist.  
We do have a plan for the artwork, but it is  
top secret for now.

*Fresh Fish (SAQA Regional)*  
*Open to all members*  
*Regional Call for Entry: Florida*

SAQA Florida invites SAQA members worldwide to create and DONATE 2-D or 3-D textile artworks of fish or other underwater creatures. These works may be in any configuration but no larger than 12" in length or width, and may be realistic or imaginary. All works submitted will be exhibited at the conference. Backgrounds are okay, but not required. Members are welcome to send more than one piece. Fresh water and salt water creatures are invited. Please share your completed fish on social media using #SAQAFreshFish!