

August 2020

# SAQA CT Newsletter

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

[Cut and paste any green link into your browser for additional info.](#)

- Gallery 53 Meeting and drop-off for exhibit
- Membership Survey Winners!
- Artist Spotlight: Sally Rogers
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- Land Art: From the Forest to Your Balcony
- "Transitions" exhibit at CTH with a SAQA discount!
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**Textile Show 2020: The Fabric of Our Lives** is an open entry show co-sponsored with Studio Art Quilt Associates Connecticut Region

**Receiving: Friday, July 31, 12 PM - 2 PM**

**Saturday, August 1, 10 AM - 2 PM**

**Reception: Saturday, August 8, 12 - 2 PM**

**On Exhibit: August 8 - August 27**

TEXTILE SHOW 2020

Co-sponsored with  
SAQA CT

**Judges: [Jan Doyle](#) & [Mary Lachman](#) / SAQACT**

**Entry form:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P8vUUuAgEi8yGwd7l\\_ygCm6vwqrDU7YM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P8vUUuAgEi8yGwd7l_ygCm6vwqrDU7YM/view)

"We know you are interested in the **Membership Survey** results for the regional contest. So as not to keep you in suspense, here are the results.

**Three** Regions with the highest percentages of responders:

Regional support was so great that we added a **third** size category and prize. Thank you! These three regions each get a \$200 credit for use in regional activities.

1. Region 1.....Less than 50 Members: **Latin America & Caribbean**
2. Region 2...51 – 99 Members: **Connecticut**
3. Region 3.....Over 100 Members: **Western Canada**

**SAQA CT Regional Meeting via Zoom  
from Gallery 53**

**August 1, 2020 11:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Topic: SAQA CT Regional meeting

Time: Aug 1, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88595413448?pwd=bJlLMTU0Z3poM3JQZzhzTnpEWXBpUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 9541 3448

Passcode: 920126

# The Artist Spotlight

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

All artwork is informed by our life's experiences. I make my living as a musician and songwriter, and as of yet, the topics of my songs have not entered in to my quilting. But music and art share many of the same elements: line, form, color, tempo, etc. I do think a lot in terms of these elements as I sew. I am mostly an intuitive quilter. I'm always asking the question, "What if...?"

## *Where do you do most of your artwork?*

I have a dedicated room for my studio, though some of my fabric is in an out building due to lack of space inside. My studio room has fantastic light, a wonderful cutting space, but I'm still sharing the space with guitars, dulcimers, banjos and an upright piano. I'm working towards evicting the instruments to reclaim fabric and work space. I do have a fabulous white design wall, about 12' X 8'.

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

I'm most proud that I've finally claimed the moniker of Artist after years of saying, "Oh, I just make quilts. I'm really a singer..."

I'm also very proud of the time I spent helping to organize Quilters: Piece for Peace in the 1980's, as we quilted to bring about a Nuclear Freeze.

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

Definitely the process, though I do feel proud of myself when I am able to achieve what I set out to do at the outset. Once a quilt is done, I really don't think about it much after enjoying it for a few days. When I open a box of stored artwork, I'm always pleasantly surprised to see what I have accomplished over time.

## *What/Who inspires you?*

I am inspired by how colors affect each other. It's just amazing how they change depending on where you put them. But in the world, I'm inspired by Nature mostly, but also events, people and music.





This is me in front of our wedding quilt. And here is the story of this quilt:

## **Our Wedding Quilt (1982-2019) *Full-Sized Bed Quilt***

Most quilts have some kind of story attached to them. This one has more of a saga! When we were married in 1982, we asked that in lieu of wedding gifts, people give us their favorite recipe, a donation to a children's charity or a quilt square. The squares in this quilt are the culmination of those gifts.

Immediately after our wedding, I pieced the quilt top. We were married in July of 1982 and by September the top was completed. I was determined to hand-quilt this precious blanket and so had to learn how to do it. I bought a very simple quilting frame that was easily dismantled for storage and began the Zen-like activity of hand quilting. I asked friends to join me around the frame and it became a wonderful communal activity, just like you read about.

Several summers later, I decided to bring the quilt from Connecticut, where we lived, to Michigan while visiting my mother. I put the folded quilt in a plastic garbage bag, drove to Michigan and set it up with a lap frame to work on over the vacation.

That is where memory stops and story begins. When I got home, I forgot about the quilt for several months. Then, wanting to work on it again, I looked for it. Everywhere. In boxes, on shelves, under beds, in closets. No quilt. I decided I must have left it in Michigan, but my mother also could not find it anywhere. Then I came to the horrible conclusion that, since the quilt had been in a garbage bag, it had been thrown out with the trash. That was the end of the quilt for about 30 years.

Fast forward to 2016 when our local peace quilting group, *Quilters: Piece for Peace*, reconstituted our organization in order to quilt a beautiful tree of life top that we had made, but never quilted. We had made quilts to raise money for the CT Nuclear Freeze Movement. The *Tree of Life* was finished just as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed, so we no longer needed the Freeze nor the quilt. So, the top sat folded in a garbage bag at one of our homes (not mine!) for the next 24 years.

The Thomas Dodd Center at the University of CT then created a Peace Center and asked to archive all the materials that could be gathered about the Freeze. Marta Daniels shepherded every button, flyer, proposition, speech and banner into her small home to be delivered to the Peace Center. And our group decided to finish the *Tree of Life* and donate it to the Center.

## ***Spotlight Artist, Sally Rogers cont'd....***

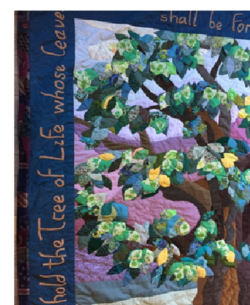
When we got to the binding along the edges, I remembered having some gorgeous velveteen that had been used in the trunk of the tree. I knew I had some left. Somewhere. I set out on a fabric safari in search of the perfect bit of yard goods. After hours of opening and digging through boxes and boxes of fabric, at last I found the binding material. And indeed, it was perfect. Because...beneath that yard of fabric lay a plastic garbage bag. When I opened the bag, lo and behold, there was our wedding quilt!!!! I was gobsmacked, as they say.

Fast forward to the induction of Nuclear Freeze materials into the Dodd Peace Center on September 30, 2016. Our Peace Quilts, including the Tree of Life were hung, then displayed until nearly Thanksgiving. I was in Israel when I received the email that our quilts had been stolen from a sealed room as they were being readied for storage. The police tried to find the perpetrator, but alas, the case was never solved. It felt like someone had died.

So out of the peace quilt ashes arose my wedding quilt. With the help of my peace quilting buddies, we finished the hand quilting on my quilt in time for it to be displayed at my first ever solo quilt show at the Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret last June. We've been sleeping peacefully under it ever since. I share it now with you.

NOTE: The indigo silk square with silk chenille embroidered flower on the right hand side of the quilt was made by our friend, Gina McMather's great-great-great grandmother while riding in a covered wagon on the Oregon trail. This is one of the many stories hidden in this blanket of love.

*Machine pieced and hand quilted by Sally Rogers and friends.*



Quilters: Piece for Peace quilts that were stolen in November 2016 from the Thomas Dodd Peace Center at the University of Connecticut

**Member News:** **Catherine Whall Smith** is a fiber artist from Chaplin, CT. She was recently chosen in the first round for the Elected Artists' [Six by Six program](#) displayed in MMoA's Schuster Gallery which now houses the Museum Store.

A dominant feature in her work is the simple line. She is interested in how it separates visual space and it is a recurring feature she uses to explore spaces created – where line meets line and where lines overlap lines.

During social distancing, she has updated her blog with images of current work including a recent series entitled [Hay... Keep Your Distance](#).

Catherine became an Elected Artist member at MMoA in 2015.

<https://www.mysticmuseumofart.org/2020/06/catherine-whall-smith/#.XutnQRzscKg.email>



"Exploring Art Quilts with SAQA" has been published. Martha Sielman is the editor. Copies can be purchased through the SAQA Store.

This high-powered mix for all who make and appreciate contemporary art quilting begins the creativity-inspiring series *Exploring Art Quilts with SAQA*. Its book-and-journal-blend format with 350 photos reveals today's latest work and designs and also serves as a long-term creative reference. Be inspired by interviews, gorgeous art quilt photos, and current creations by members of SAQA.

Meet 16 artists living around the world, including stories on their beginnings as art quilters. Peer at every detail in photos showing the range of content being produced today. A series of articles examine art being made in various locales; France, Japan, and the United Kingdom are included in this volume. Finally, learn from the work of SAQA's [Juried Artist members](#) in 10 themed image galleries highlighting the range and complexity of their art.

### ***Virtual Gallery Volunteer Curator Program***

Announcing a new virtual exhibit: **"Land Art: From the Forest to Your Balcony"**

SAQA's Virtual Gallery is a wonderful place to see work that's hard to display in a brick-and-mortar setting, and this exciting exhibit will allow SAQA artists to show what they can do in terms of outdoor artworks and installations. In the freedom of an outdoor context, art has the power to interact with the landscape in a new and meaningful way. Location and subject matter are completely up to you. Since this exhibit depends on images only, pieces can be any size: small enough to be displayed on a balcony or large enough to fill a pasture. Artwork can be new or created in the past. The installation, or components within the installation, just need to meet SAQA's definition of an art quilt. Entries will be selected by a panel of three curators with experience in this field: Daren Pitts Redman, Susan Lenz, and Judith Martin.

Get your creative mojo going, get outside, and create some art!

Online entry opens September 1, 2020, and closes September 30, 2020. The exhibit will be posted during November and December of this year. See the full description on the website:

<https://www.saga.com/events/land-art-forest-your-balcony-saga-virtual-gallery>. If you have additional questions, contact [virtualgallery@saga.com](mailto:virtualgallery@saga.com).

**Come View**

**SAQA CT's Fairfield County Local Connection Challenge**

"Transitions" Challenge Gallery Opening

Close To Home Orange

196 Boston Post Rd, Orange, CT

Friday, August 28th & Saturday, August 29th

10:00am till 5:00pm

*20% discount to all SAQA members*

*Remember to wear your mask!*

*"Transitions" speaks to the connection between two parts contributing to cohesion; movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.*

You are invited to view sets of art quilts designed and completed in unison, the larger transitioning in one or multiple ways based on the smaller of the two. Each small quilt, measuring 12" x 12" sets the stage for its larger companion quilt measuring 18" x 30". Transitions are based on color, design, shape, technique, relationship, thought, etc.

*I received a lovely email from a SAQA friend in Florida: "I hope this email finds you and the CT gang well. I'm well and happily creating in my Florida studio(s). In case you are interested for the newsletter, I am still writing for C & T Publishing as a C&T Ambassador, both a monthly blog pattern for them and also in their book division. The monthly blog patterns that I create for them are free to download from my blog: <http://seasew.blogspot.com/>."*

My best to you and the CT gang,

Normajeane Brevik

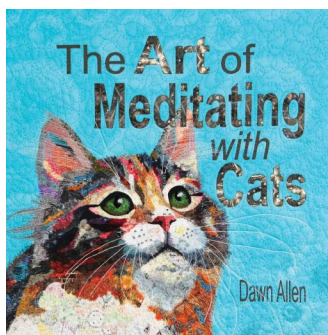
*The byline for Normajeane's blog reads: An aerobics class for my artistically rambunctious inner-child. How has your inner-child been behaving??*

An impressive email from another SAQA friend, Rita Hannifin: I have one bit of news that I have posted on FB. I entered my flag piece, American Texture, in the virtual exhibit, Americana, at the Mystic Museum of Art. Here is the link: <https://www.mysticmuseumofart.org/entry/americana-64th-annual-themed-regional-exhibition/#!>

There are some very interesting all media pieces in this show, and I am happy to have my work included. Cathy Smith has a quilt in this show as well.

The first known usage of AMERICANA was in 1841, during the tumultuous pre-Civil War period of partisan conflict that would tear the country in half. As the USA braces itself for another divisive election year in 2020, and everything else that's going on with nation-wide protests and a global pandemic, MMoA invited artists to examine their interpretation of this term, and to create work celebrating or subverting the symbolism, culture, and traditional values associated with "Americana."





**Member News:** Congratulations to one of our fellow SAQA members! *“The Art of Meditating with Cats”* features 27 colorful, whimsical fiber art quilt cat portraits and over 20 heartfelt meditations for all humans to enjoy. Written and illustrated by well-known animal communicator, author, and artist, Dawn Allen.

This book offers the calming benefits of meditation and enhances the already close bond people have with their cats. Each meditation includes a fun, colorful illustration of a cat and clear instructions for different meditation themes and techniques. It is an uplifting book.

The Art of Meditating with Cats is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1641520000) and on Dawn's website [dawnallen.net](http://dawnallen.net).  
Yeah Dawn!!!



Did you Know? You can subscribe to the **SAQA YouTube Channel** ? Be introduced to the new SAQA President, Deborah Boschert at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFPjebVj-NI>

OR

Watch President Deborah Boschert and Vivika DeNegre celebrate SAQA from the QuiltCon 2020 show floor as they peruse a variety of beautiful art quilts created by SAQA members and discuss the benefits of joining SAQA at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkMyAmqc1U>

OR

Learn [How to properly roll and pack an art quilt - with SAQA Director of Global Exhibitions Bill Reker](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZTPWv8wN2Q) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZTPWv8wN2Q>

OR

**Textile Talks** featuring weekly presentations and panel discussions from the International Quilt Museum, the Modern Quilt Guild, Quilt Alliance, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, Studio Art Quilt Associates and Surface Design Association. The programs will be held online at 2 p.m. Eastern (11 a.m. Pacific) each Wednesday



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