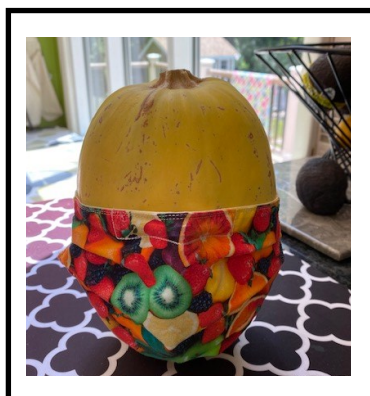


SAQA CT Newsletter

- Gallery 53 Exhibit Judging results and pick up
- Gallery 53 video link
- Artist Spotlight is on Kate Themel
- Judging "The Fabric of our Lives" by Jan Doyle
- "Joyspotting" with Laurie Russman
- Bisa Butler exhibit at Katona Museum of Art
- West Hartford Art League charity drive
- "Transitions" exhibit at CTH with a SAQA discount!
- Pricing your art quilts

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

Cut and paste any green link into your browser for additional info.



Looks as if someone didn't want to be the answer to "what's for dinner" at Kate Themel's house!

"Eiffel" tower statue holding a mask that I made that is printed with a Paris street map. Cathy Smith



Congratulations to all of the participants! 56 quilts were hung in the exhibit!

TEXTILE SHOW 2020

Co-sponsored with
SAQA CT



Exhibit is open through August 27

1st prize	Marlene Shea	After the Storm - The Flowers Will Bloom Again
2nd Prize	Susan Knight Ober	Come Swim with Us
3rd Prize	Christina Blais	Van Gogh Dog
John Melecsinsky	Kate Themel	CT Science Center
Honorable Mention	Diane Wright	Walkabout Maggie
Honorable Mention	Diane Cadrain	Jack O'Lantern Mushrooms

GALLERY 53 pick up:

Friday, August 28th 12 - 4

Saturday, August 29th 10 - 2.

Video link for Gallery 53 "The Fabric of our Lives" exhibition <https://www.gallery53.org/textileshow2020.html>

The Artist Spotlight is on

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

The most important skill that I bring into my artwork is observation. Being able to notice small details and observe objects and people objectively is so valuable in drawing. It is the foundation of representational art. I practice drawing and sketching almost every day.

The life experience part is harder to define. Over the years I've learned to be more patient. Every day (especially during lockdown) I work on my ability to focus on a task and block out distractions. I'm also working on letting things be "good enough". The need for perfection can be paralyzing. It takes practice to be able to do your best, let the results be what they are, and move on. It's the only way to make progress.

I've been working in fiber art for 25 years. The most valuable lesson I've learned is to keep working. Keep creating. Not everything I make will be great or win awards or be show worthy. But some of it will. I'm hoping the Law of Averages works in my favor.

Where do you do most of your artwork?



I have a studio in my basement where I do most of the production work. As for the inspiration and design work, I do that anywhere and everywhere. Typically, I work in realism. So my inspiration comes from the people, objects and scenery I see around me. I usually sketch ideas out on paper, or take photos of something I'd like to explore. Sometimes I'll work a design out on my laptop before heading into the studio.

Rockstar

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

This is the question that took me the longest to answer! I am proud that my artwork has a style and voice that is uniquely mine. When people can pick out one of my pieces from a group, without looking at the artist's name tag, it means so much to me.

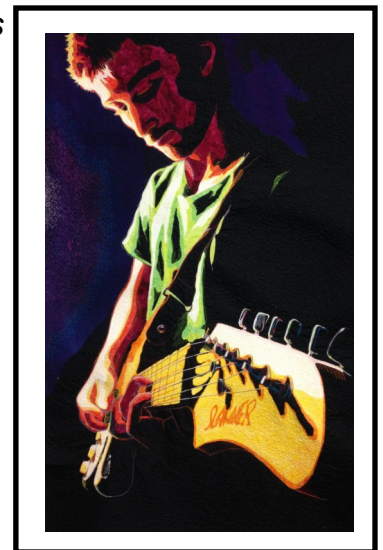


Which do you enjoy more: the process or the results?

It goes back and forth. The design process can sometimes be frustrating and slow, so it's gratifying to get to a composition that I'm happy with. At this point I'm comfortable with my materials and tools, so the quilt-building process is pretty straight forward. It's just a matter of patience, cutting and placing the pieces where they belong. Stepping back, checking the progress, making adjustments along the way. Usually when I'm about 75% finished with the piecing process, I start to get a little "sick

of looking at it" and all I want is to see the final results.

On the other hand, every once in a while, I feel like the design is sailing right along and the pieces are coming together just as I envisioned it. Those are the times when the process is really fun.



What/who inspires you?

More and more often, I find inspiration in machinery. Things that function properly. Ingenious inventions. Systems that work. I guess I'm looking for a sense of order in an increasingly chaotic world. I sometimes feel overwhelmed by what I see happening in the United States. The stupid, self-inflicted injuries. The corruption and dysfunction of national institutions. People acting out of fear and absolute ignorance. Rejection of science and reason. It's depressing. I have to consciously look for the antidote. To celebrate any little glimpse of genius. It gives me hope and reminds me that people are capable of building something useful. The solution to a problem doesn't need to be **complicated for it to be powerful and effective. For example a corkscrew - a simple tool that works so perfectly for the task, the design hasn't changed in hundreds of years. There is beauty in that.**



[You can learn more about Kate's work on her Facebook page "FIBER Art by Kate Themel".](#)



If I could send out a message to artists of any age or skill level, I hope this is helpful... Learn to evaluate your own work honestly as you go along. Don't beat yourself up over small imperfections. Ask yourself if it matters in the big picture. If not, move on.

But also, don't be so precious with your design that you can't bear to change anything even if it's obvious. Every once in a while take a look at your work in a mirror. You'll be surprised how many design issues will reveal themselves when you change your perspective. And remember, you control what version of artwork you show to the public. They don't have to know how many mistakes you made, how many pieces went unfinished, or how easy or hard it was to come to the final work. They will only see what you decide to show.

The Fabric of Our Lives...by Jan Doyle

Gallery 53 hosted a quilt show that I judged on Thursday, August 6, 2020. What a terrific experience.

Unfortunately, Mary Lachman was not able to join me. I realized I needed another tool to help me judge. Being a teacher, I came up with a rubric. It looked like this:

QUILT	Visual Impact:	Design:	Workmanship:	TOTAL	COMMENTS
	10 points max	10 points max	10 points max		

On the same sheet, at the top, I listed the prizes.

FIRST PRIZE: \$100 SECOND PRIZE: \$75 THIRD PRIZE: \$50 Two Honorable Mentions

John Melecsinsky Memorial Award: \$100

When I arrived, I found out that Catherine Whall Smith had provided additional information about the memorial award. The following are the key points about John Melecsinsky's art which included this quote:

"More about being an artist and not drawing"

John was noted for the following techniques

Line drawings...negative spaces...position...distortion and exaggeration

I did not want to be distracted from "looking and viewing" the work.



I asked for help to record my scores. Denise, a volunteer from the shop, recorded my scores as I judged all 57 entries.

Many pieces received 30 points – the maximum amount. Unlike other competitions I have judged, I could not award all first places awards, I had to review the entries that received a score of 30. It was from those scores I chose the winners.

There was a clear winner for John Melecsinsky Memorial Award. I choose that award first. Then, one piece elicited "OMG" from me and was recorded by Denise. This quilt was an obvious first-place award. Others pieces were revisited. This is where I listened to the quilt "talk to me." Awards were given after my "conversation" with the quilts.

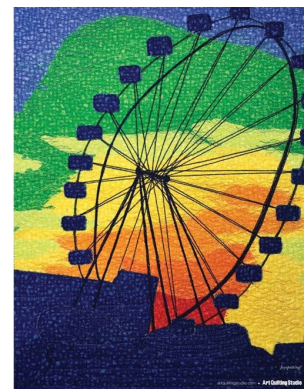
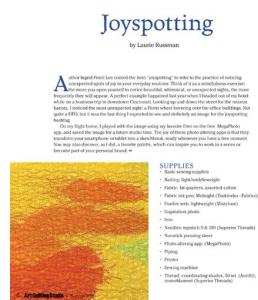
One piece that did not win, but I vividly remember is the dress done on the mannequin. The fabric of the dress was made from paint chips from a store. You have to go see it.

Sandy Goodyear, the director of Gallery 53 was just delightful. I loved my experience there, and sent in a membership to the gallery the next day.

Please go and see the exhibit. Sandy made sure each piece was hung with care, numbered, and easily viewed. You won't be disappointed.

Congratulations to all the winners. If you didn't win, don't despair. I know your piece was wonderful. You might win the next time. Keep entering.

SAQA member, Laurie Russman, is spotlighted in the Summer 2020 edition of *Art Quilting Studio!* Get your copy today and read her article entitled, "Joyspotting".



Bisa Butler: Portraits is the first solo museum exhibition of the artist's work and features her vivid and larger-than-life quilts that capture African American identity and culture. The show will be on view at the Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) from March 15 to October 4, 2020 and then travel to the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC).

<http://www.katonahmuseum.org/exhibition>



Lin Elmo has a swimming buddy!



Susan Ober has been making matching masks for the choir...here's the director and mascot!



WEST HARTFORD ART LEAGUE

SUPPORT OUR 2020 BUILDING FUND!

During this unprecedented time, the West Hartford Art League understands basic human services are everyone's first concern, and they urge you to donate to those causes first.



If you are able to extend your support beyond that, The West Hartford Art League would appreciate your support during this crucial period. They have been closed since March 16th but plan to reopen when they believe they can safely do so.

They have set a goal of \$15,000 to be used to install a handi-cap accessible walkway leading into the Clubhouse classroom, and to paint the Saltbox Building. All contributions made at this time go toward those two capital improvements.

These projects will help to continue to bring the arts to the community when they re-open. Every contribution makes a difference and will be greatly appreciated! Donations can be made online, by phone or by mail. Your donation to the Art League, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is tax-deductible. <http://westhartfordart.org/donate-now/>

Thank you for your support!

At our most recent Wed CT SAQA meet-up, the question of how to accurately price our art quilts came up. Diane Howell, editor of the SAQA Journal, wrote two articles in a 2018 edition of the journal giving us things to think about that hold true today. The articles are entitled, "Pricing Got You Down?" and "Is It Math That Proves Our Worth? It's a Calculated Possibility". Check out Diane's articles by clicking on the link below:

<https://d2r0txsugik6oi.cloudfront.net/neon/resource/saga/files/SAQA%20Journal%202018-1.pdf>



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.

If you have an item or article you'd like to see in a monthly edition of the SAQA CT newsletter, contact me via the information below. Photos of your work are always welcome.