

Colleen Ansbaugh*Fly By*

A morning walk brings much to explore and examine. The dew on the plants, the morning news, coffee, and hearing the birds sing. What are the images that remind a person of the good things in life? Enjoy every moment.

Kim Bates*Pod*

I love feathers and I love scraps, so I set out to make a scrappy feather. After piecing it looked more like a leaf and when I showed it to a friend she immediately said, "It's a pod." I love how art evolves!

Jan Berg-Rezmer*Pod Cast Plaid*

I used wool plaid from a skirt—a very recognizable pattern with unique hand-dyed wool yarn, which to me looked like pods strung together. I just went for it, spreading each pod out to a wider shape and needle felting into the plaid. I wondered, if these were real seed pods, what would they grow into if planted?

Holly Brackmann*The Negative and Positive: Ivah and Mattie*

Based on an old sepia photo depicting my great aunt Ivah Johanna Schray (a career woman, who never married), and her mother, my great grandmother Mattie Ophelia Dillenbeck Schray. I have very fond memories of both these strong women who influenced my life.

Diane Clapes

Orts in Yellow and Green

I have recently been considering my personal contribution to waste and excess. I also work in a very small studio. I have challenged myself to use materials already in my possession in an effort to produce less garbage and to clean out a bit. "Orts in Yellow and Green" came about during an evening of improvisational work using only fabric scraps from past projects. I found it very rewarding and joyful to work this way and consequently have begun a series of "Orts" works. I love the texture provided by the frayed edges and the bright, hopeful feeling projected by yellow and green.

Shannon M. Dion

Olive Branch

My love of trees and a hope for peace are the inspiration for this small piece.

Stephanie Dahl

Oh, Iris!

Iris Apfel, age 99, is a self-described "geriatric starlet." Her iconic style and infectious joie de vivre are an inspiration. In 2005, the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art staged an exhibition of her clothing and accessories, making her the first living woman who was NOT a fashion designer to be so honored.

Note: Basic character sketch taken from "Iris Apfel Coloring Book" (independently published in the USA in 2020, with no copyright notice or illustrator credit appearing).

Mel Dugosh

Morwenna

Long before Marvel Comics' Aquaman, legend had it that young Saint Morwenna of Cornwall used the shiny stone she kept behind her ear to persuade water to spring forth from the dry ground. With her ornate walking stick, she climbed the highest cliffs with ease and asked the sea to calm and return the seafarers safely.

Susan Else

Worry Stone

This is the latest in a long series of sculptures involving cloth-covered bones. "Worry Stone" reminds us that fretting doesn't do us much good in the long run; we might be better off spending our time in other ways. Things we are anxious about sometimes look far less consequential in hindsight.

Diane English

Cells

I was exploring the layering of circles that are stitched on to create texture on a piece I had discharged.

Andrea Finch

Quercus Falling Leaves VI: Hoster White Oak, Penn State Arboretum

The Falling Leaves series evolved from my new intense interest in oaks. Oaks surrounded the home I grew up in; Swamp Chestnut, Red, White and Pin Oaks. I spent many an autumn listening to the acorns falling on the roof and watching the squirrels stash them away. Oak trees are key to the native wildlife of the United States, feeding over 100 animals and birds with their acorns.

I'm a collector of all types of fabric, and local decorators supply me with a wide assortment of fabrics from their sample books. Using these 'recycled' fabrics that would have ended up in the trash, and the restrictions of a small piece of fabric that I cannot replace, make the work more exciting. The Falling Leaves series continues as I explore adding movement to my work, capturing falling leaves and all the interesting shapes of oak leaves. I hope my quilts will spark interest in these long-lived, native, beneficial trees.

Diane Friedman

Birds on the Beach

I created a simple birds on the beach image which became much more interesting once I added the laser cut fabric floating over the image.

Monique Gilbert-Oversteyns

Singing Flowers

I feel happy with music, colors, and flowers.

Sonia Grasvik

Butterfly Doodle

Over the 30 years I have been a quilter, I have accumulated many practice quilt sandwiches (used to practice stitches and techniques). By doodling and adding more stitching to these pieces, I created unique, one of a kind pieces of art. This has brought me the pleasure of spending happy hours doing what I love best....sitting at my sewing machine and letting the stitching flow. Thanks to Paula Kovarik for inspiring this technique.

Lynn Hanna

Everything Changed That Day

After a traumatic loss, the days ahead are dreary. Our complex daily routines continue, but lack joy, color, and sparkle. The warmth and life is missing, replaced with a mundane tangle of expectations and deadlines to meet. The way forward is stressful and bleak. It becomes a burden and a struggle to forge ahead.

As an eternal optimist, reverse the image. A joyful event brings the spark of hope, returns a bit of color to our life, and makes the tangle of expectations a bit less burdensome. I believe things get better, and love always wins in the end. Hang in there.

Jaynie Himsl

Fall Storm II

You can almost smell the rain in the air as the wind makes waves in the fields of ripe grain.

Kathleen Hughes

White Roses

Roses from our garden this year continue to inspire me. I began art quilting with flower images and keep coming back to them.

Ivy Jensen

Magnetite

This multilayered technique grew from working with Tyvek and synthetic fabrics. In this piece, I used lamé and synthetic silk strips and melted them before appliquing them to the base fabric. Then I quilted and remelted them and watched as it developed into this polycrystalline texture.

Debra Kay

Forest Flames

Inspired by the raging forest fires in the western United States, this piece shows leaping flames against a backdrop of burned forest.

Karen Kuranda

Water Lily on the Pond

This quilt is based on a photo taken by my husband of one of his beloved water lilies in our pond in Southern Vermont in the United States. Many think water lilies represent enlightenment and that their flowers have different meanings depending on the color of the flower. For this quilt design, I used over ninety different thread colors with a digital thread painting technique that lets me layer many, many different thread colors one over each other starting on a solid white fabric background. I love using this particular technique to achieve the sophisticated blending needed to adequately express the beauty of this flower and then watching the design begin to emerge with every additional thread color. Because there is so much thread shading involved, I think it gives an incredible richness to the design.

Ellen Lindner*Draw Bridge Ahead*

This tiny piece showcases one of my favorite ways to work, what I call "slicing and dicing." Without a pattern or a plan, I sew fabrics together, slice into them, add a skinny line, or join things back together askew. I do this randomly and eventually begin to notice colors or patterns that work well together. At that point my slicing and dicing become more intentional as I work to create sew-able "blocks" of sorts. It's a really fun way to work! This piece is made entirely from pieced scraps from an earlier project.

Melanie Marr*Ocelot*

Ocelot was inspired by a photo taken at the Houston Zoo. We do have Ocelots in south Texas.

Becky McNeill*Bleached Reef*

Coral reefs have the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem on the planet, but 75% of the remaining reefs in our oceans are threatened, and projections indicate that all will be lost by the end of the century if we don't take immediate action on climate change! That's less than 79 years from now!!! "Bleached Reef," depicts the disruption of the symbiotic relationship between microalgae and coral that results in the reefs appearing bleached. Even 1+ degree of temperature change can result in this bleaching, and if the temperature increase is too high for too long, the coral can't recover. Over the last 30 years, bleaching has become more intense and widespread, leading to massive coral die offs around the world. This small quilt is a reminder and challenge for each of us to make the small changes in our daily lives that can add up to protection of coral reefs worldwide...green transportation, energy efficiency, climate-friendly food consumption, and reduced plastic use.

Karen I. Miller*Flicker*

I met a flicker for the first time recently. What a gorgeous creature he was.

Marnie Murray

Break Away 1

I love the never-ending possibilities when using fiber reactive dyes and shibori techniques. The mathematical nature of traditional quilts speaks to me as well: geometry, patterns, lines, forms, functions. Are they competing or supportive forces?

Ruth Anne Olson

Meteor Showers

I love looking up at the sky, especially on clear nights when many stars are visible. Because I currently live in an area with a great deal of light pollution, this does not happen often. This small piece reflects what I wish I could see every night, including shooting stars during times of meteor showers.

Karel Peer

Gingko

Gingko leaves create a golden carpet in the fall along streets in my neighborhood.

Dawn Piasta

Majestic Wood Duck

Autumn brings a gentle cool breeze and touches all of nature with a golden brush. Sometimes a treasure is spotted perched high in an oak tree. What a gift to see. The plumage of the male wood duck is the most beautiful of our local waterfowl. I am calmed by his beauty.

Cynthia K. W. Reynolds

Blood Moon

Red moon, blue moon, harvest moon...I am fascinated by the moon. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that my name, Cynthia, means "goddess of the moon"! In any case, I have written poetry about the moon, created moon art, and never miss lunar eclipses. In May 2021 there was a super moon, a time when the moon appears closer to the earth because it is full and at its closest point in its orbit around the Earth. I created this piece inspired by that moon.

Sheree Schlote

Anticipation

It may be a sunrise and the dawn of a new day, or the arrival of spring. We wait and anticipate for it to arrive.

Michael J. Ross

Confluence Small Study #1

My Confluence series represents the merging of various techniques into a new artistic process. This is also reflected in the art by cutting individual pieces improvisationally and merging them into a finished composition.

Sara Sharp

Rosie

"Rosie" is a roseate spoonbill, which I photographed on the Texas Gulf Coast. This is one of my favorite shorebirds. They combine some of the most beautiful and the most unlovely features, resulting in a bird that might appear in a Dr. Seuss book. The bright red, pink, and orange of their feathers resembles an elegant flamingo, but their unique spoon-shaped bill is an unattractive wrinkly gray. This bill is used to swing back and forth in shallow water to capture small prey, while they slowly walk on their large wrinkly black feet. While we admire their beautiful feathers, we also get to chuckle at their improbable combination of unusual features.

Brenda H. Smith

Monuments

As a quilter creating contemporary art, I am inspired by the natural world near my home in northern Arizona and during my travels in the western United States. My work is related to nature and landscapes through color, pattern, and design. I experiment with color, print, and dyed fabric, and develop texture through various surface design techniques. Images of forests, deserts, and grasslands, the folds and textures of geology, and the impressions and traces of wildlife are common themes I work with in many of my quilts. My quilts are the stories of what I have seen and experienced through my daily walks or my travels.

Jennifer Solon

Fire and Beauty

This piece reminds me of a visit to the Big Island of Hawai'i. The juxtaposition of tropical lushness against the barren wasteland of the lava fields is a memory I won't forget. Mother Nature is truly inspiring.

Mary Jo Stipe

Sidewalks & Pathways

I love bright colors mixed with black and white. Improvisational piecing is my favorite technique. Sidewalks & Pathways combines both. When I begin a new piece, I never know quite where it will lead. While garden paths and walking trails were my initial inspiration, serendipity played a role too. Finding the bias strips with fusible web already attached added the finishing touch. After all, we can't always stay on the straight and narrow.

Sandy Teepen

Miniature Collage

I welcome the chance to create small, and I love collage with fabric.

Linda Waddle

Cityscape

Night lights in a city can be beautiful, however the unnecessary lighting of buildings can disorient migrating birds.

Rosanna Lynne Welter

Leaf on Sidewalk

This is from a photograph I took very early on a brisk, fall walk around my neighborhood. Translating it to fabric was interesting and fun. I love that the long shadow is the star of the piece.

Carla Wolf

Autumnal Color Play

Sometimes it is just fun to play. By overlaying different colors of organza, new colors are can be created. This color play reminded me of fall which inspired me to make free motion lace fall leaves to add to the piece, making my play time even more fun.