

Bits and Pieces

Newsletter

March 2014



Next Meeting

March 17, 2014

Jo Fittsell

What Makes It an Art Quilt?

What Makes It an **ART** Quilt? Straight talk for those who feel they are ready to enter bigger shows and innocently wondering if your work is ready. Jo will identify some of the undercurrents, distractions and barriers to developing ourselves as artists within the culture of art quilt groups, the fiber art world and the art world.

Jo Fittsell is one of the founders of Front Range Contemporary Quilters. She is on the faculty of The Art Students League in Denver and is a “Think 360” artist-in-resident. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and Canada.

She teaches marbling classes, fiber collage, art quilting and creativity classes. She has been published in *Quilting Arts*, *Quilt National* and *SAQA* and has artwork in many establishments, including The Denver Seminary, Oracle, and Kaiser Permanente. Interweave Press has published her new DVD on Marbling.

FRCQ meetings are held at the Westminster City Recreation Center at 7:00 PM. If an FRCQ meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice will be posted on the website at <http://www.artquilters.org>



President's Letter

I recently spoke with several friends who are also textile artists and they were struggling to start new work. Somehow they couldn't find time to go into their studio. I was intrigued to hear one person's solution to finding inspiration. She signed up for an online class that involved doing a new piece every two weeks. There was an assignment involving choosing a particular composition or color scheme. I knew this format would not work for me. I know I would feel resentful at being told what I had to do. But, the point is it is working for her. She is enjoying creating new work and feeling her creative energy flowing again.



Where do you look for inspiration? Do you find your muse by signing up for a class? If that is true, the many opportunities offered by FRCQ to learn new skills or take a workshop might help you find a new reservoir of creativity. I find that the programs often give me ideas to build on. Valerie White talked about working with purpose. Maybe that idea helped you focus. Focus has never been my problem. If anything I become so focused on my work I lose perspective. That is when I need to get away from my own mind and look for new inspiration.

My best place to go to find inspiration is two blocks down the street from me at the Denver Art Museum. This week I went exploring the 4th floor of the North building. Deep behind the entry to Columbian art is a Mexican Santos section. I am looking for ideas to create a piece for my church's Stations of the Cross installation. Sure enough it helped formulate an idea in my head.

My other favorite spot for inspiration is right across the street in the library. There is a huge section of art books just demanding to be appreciated. Another trick I have when I am researching an idea is to go to the children's section. I am currently finishing a Buddha piece and by reading an uncomplicated interpretation of Buddhism I can narrow down an idea to a more simplistic viewpoint. Sometimes the illustrations in a child's book help me see things more abstractly.

I am sure each of you has your own special places where you look for artistic inspiration. I guess the point is to keep finding new insights that take you down the wonderful pathway of starting a new piece and seeing where it leads you. When you are talking to other artist friends at FRCQ maybe you can share some of your own inspiration secrets.

Bits and Pieces is the monthly newsletter of the Front Range Contemporary Quilters. Submission of art quilt related articles from members is welcomed. The editor and the Board reserve the right to edit for length, content and space. Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the Thursday following the monthly meeting. Email articles and items for submission to the publication to: Moira Mallison
news@frcq.org

Advertising Policy:

Classes offered by members are printed for free in the section called "Member Classes"; business cards of members or businesses with services of interest to our members are printed for (3-1/2"x2") \$5 per issue; 1/4 page (3-1/2"x4-3/4"), \$20.00 per issue; 1/2 page (7-1/2" x 4-3/4"), \$40.00 per issue; full page (7-1/2"x9-3/4"), \$80.00 per issue. All advertising should be submitted along with payment to the newsletter editor by the deadline. Contact Moira at news@frcq.org for payment address.

Bits and Pieces is a benefit of membership in Front Range Contemporary Quilters and is not available by subscription. Membership in FRCQ is \$30 per year, due and payable January 1 of each year. Dues may be sent to membership chair.

FRCQ, Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 351551
Westminster, CO 80035-3551

Change of Address:

Please notify membership chair, Ellen Nepustil, for any change of address. members@frcq.org

2013-2014 Board Members

President	Jean Herman
(720) 932-7961	president@frcq.org
Vice Pres./Programs	Laurie Gibb
Secretary	Lea McComas
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Workshops	Susan Brooks & Jeanne Gray
Communications	Moira Mallison

Other Contacts:

Website	Kathy Keating
New Skills Workshops	Susan Apte & Cynthia Jarest
Yahoo List	Jeanne Lounsbury

FRCQ Exhibits

Celebrate 25 Years of FRCQ
Dairy Center, Boulder Colorado –
located at 26th and Walnut
January 24 – March 7, 2014

Thanks to all who entered and supported this great show.

We'll take the show down on Monday, March 10 and will have the art at the March FRCQ meeting on March 17. If you cannot make that meeting or would like to pick up your quilt early, please let me know prior to March 10. (frcqexhibits@comcast.net)

We can also use a couple extra hands if you can join us on the 10th.

Art Quilting – Past, Present and Future
Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum,
Golden Colorado

April 27 – July 26, 2014

Notification of selected work – **March 28, 2014 (NOTE: Date has changed)**
Delivery of Art by Monday, April 21, 2014 (pick up at FRCQ April meeting or by other arrangements).

Show Description: This show will demonstrate the progression of art quilting from historical quilts selected from the RMQM archive to the work created by today's fiber artists.

Other Exhibit Opportunities

Thank you, Bev Haring, for putting all this info together!

Mar 15 2014: *Evolutions 2014* presented at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum.
<http://rmqmentry2.org/>

Mar 31 2014: *State of the Art, 2014* - CO/UT/WY SAQA showcase show:
<https://saqacowwyut.wordpress.com/showcase-exhibit-call-for-entries/>

April 1 2014: *Go Wild!* Online Quilt Exhibit hosted by the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum and RMQM.org https://rmqm.org/zz/images/stories/contest_CFE.pdf

April 1 2014: Early Bird deadline for SAQA Auction pieces. <http://www.saqa.com/auction-submit.php>

April 18 2014: 32nd Annual New Legacies: Contemporary Art Quilts hosted by Lincoln Center, Ft Collins. <http://www.fcgov.com/lctix/pdf/cfe-new-legacies-2014.pdf>

June 1 2014: *Inspired By*, sponsored by The Alliance for American Quilts.
<http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/projects/galleries/Inspired%20By/guidelines/>

June 1 2014: Final deadline for SAQA Auction pieces. <http://www.saqa.com/auction-submit.php>

Sharing Memories ~ Patty Hawkins

Part 1 of this series is in the February newsletter

We did not want to be called a guild, distinguishing ourselves from the established traditional state quilt organization COLORADO QUILT GUILD, whom we appreciated, but wished to do our "own thing! "

One of our first programs, at the meeting room of Days Inn, Boulder, was Elaine Spencer, giving a free presentation on women wearing Burkas, which she witnessed firsthand while with husband Bill, abroad for his career; Gretchen remembers we invited Rachel Clark to teach, renown California wearable artist, knowing she had Colorado relatives, asking her to pay her way to travel here.

So many memories of all six founders.

Diana Bunnell was a whiz with the "computer", so foreign to us all; learning the program to print mailing labels, sending postcards announcing our meetings. Diana had such a color sense, with her expertise as a potter; always a front runner with art quilts.

Jo Fittell, a Denver "fabric artist", meant she could encourage interest among Denver artists. She always offered to pick up our visiting teachers at Stapleton Airport; enjoying one on one chats.

Laura deKloe was our talented treasurer, counting on her husband's talents, to help us with the "books". She reminded us she had a wonderful traditional quilter neighbor, but Laura wanted to do unique quilts.

Gretchen Hill was an early talented quilt teacher; giving us a different perspective, newly arrived from California, the "hot bed" of contemporary quilting.

Marilyn Dillard called herself the Dictator, keeping us organized, and on task. She jumped right in, making art quilts, from her weaving skills of color and shape organization.

Patty Hawkins was the encouraging "cheerleader" and ready to line up nationally known workshop teachers, meeting them while attending Quilt Surface Design Symposium in Columbus OHIO.

Many hours spent on the phone, organizing, and writing By-Laws...again no such thing as email.

I acknowledge so many supportive board members, and officers, who have given so much energy and time to continue our enthusiasm for FRCQ's vitality!!! My greatest hope is forward thinking in FRCQ, keeping members *enchanted with fiber art* and all its facets, expressly through **great** officers, programs, workshops and a *most vibrant newsletter* which needs input from all members to keep it interesting.

Accolades to all!

2014 FRCQ Membership Information

2014 FRCQ Membership Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Mail to: FRCQ, P.O. Box 351551, Westminster, CO 80035-1551

Date: _____ Early Bird Dues (Before 12/31/13) are \$25 Dues are \$30

Cash Check Renewing Member New Member

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

The FRCQ newsletter is delivered by email. Please print clearly, especially if there is an underscore or dot in the address.

EMAIL: _____

WEB SITE: _____