

# Bits and Pieces

## Newsletter

April 2014



### Next Meeting

**April 21, 2014**

**Jason Pollen**

#### *Inside Out*

Jason will present an inspirational visual journey through the worlds of cloth, color, light, texture, unexpected juxtapositions, harmonies and dissonances.

Jason Pollen is an internationally acclaimed artist, designer and educator. He has been on the faculties of the Royal College of Art in London, Parsons School of Design and Pratt Institute in New York City and as Professor and Chair of the Fiber Department at the Kansas City Art Institute. Pollen has designed textiles for dozens of renowned fashion and home furnishings firms. He regularly collaborates as scenic designer with the Kansas City Ballet.

*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>*



He is President emeritus of the Surface Design Association and also an American Craft Council Fellow. The Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina honors him with the Outstanding Artist Educator Award in August 2012.

# President's Letter

It is such a beautiful Colorado spring day and our ever changing spring weather reminds me of the ups and downs of the art quilt show entry process. Last week I received a notice that my "Katherine a la Picasso" Piece had been juried into The 2014 Visions Show. I felt just like what I experience when I head out for a walk on a blue sky 70 degree spring day. It is euphoria, the creek is rushing loudly, and the bikers and walkers are smiling.



I then received notice I did not get accepted into the Quilts, Past, Present and Future Show. Now I felt more like the day last week when I planned a bicycle trip with my daughter to the botanical gardens. It turned cold and windy, we froze to death, and to top it off the gardens had only a few pathetic crocuses blooming.

I call this whole cycle the artist's roller coaster. I could give you many descriptions of this emotional roller coaster because I have been trying to get into both quilting and art shows for 5 years. Sure my work has grown and improved over that time frame, but I still get rejected

But, I am always was thrilled to see who did get into the show. Of the 20 artists whose work was accepted to the FRCQ show four, of them are members of one of the critique groups I am in. I can bask in a feeling of pride for these other artists. And truthfully I can commiserate with those who entered and were not accepted.

I hope other FRCQ members to continue taking the emotional risk and enter shows. I believe that critique groups help immensely in your growth as an artist. I belong to two critique groups and both of them just accepted new members. Both newbie artists and experienced artists joined the group. Take the plunge. Sign up on the sheet at Front Range next month and we will try to help you form a new group or visit a group with possible openings.

My last suggestion is shop for a good photographer. Our last several speakers have spent a fair amount of time advising us about the entry process. At last month's meeting I put out cards for my wonderful photographer who meets my criteria. He is professional and highly skilled at art photography; he is reasonably priced and lives in central Denver. Ask your friends for who they use and why they prefer them.

Good luck, please consider joining me and many other FRCQ members on the art show entry ride. Hopefully, you will have more ecstasy than agony

## **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
Treasurer	Jane King
Membership	Ellen Nepustil
Exhibits	Linda Strand
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

## Art Quilting – Past, Present and Future

### Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, Golden Colorado

April 27 – July 26, 2014

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

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

**May 1 2014:** Summerfest is a two-day community fine arts and crafts festival held outdoors in beautiful Evergreen, CO. [https://www.zapplication.org/event-info-public.php?fair\\_id=3112](https://www.zapplication.org/event-info-public.php?fair_id=3112)

**May 5 2014:** Small Works and Fabric Treasures: An Art Quilt Show at the Bas Bleu Theater. Small Works and Fabric Treasures is open to Colorado art quilters. Wall hangings only will be accepted. Quilts must be composed of at least two layers which are held together with stitching. Non-fabric items may be incorporated into the piece. 3-D works must be able to mount on the wall. Altered books will not be accepted.

[http://r-m-c-q.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/bas\\_bleu\\_call\\_2014.pdf](http://r-m-c-q.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/bas_bleu_call_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>

**June 30 2014:** The Art of Fiber. . . Celebrating Fifty Years of the Handweavers Guild of Boulder. This exhibition will show current trends in fiber art including weaving, basketry, felting, spinning, LED-weaving, art quilting, tapestry, knitting, crocheting, and other fiber-related arts. It will be installed throughout The Dairy Center for the Arts, Boulder, Colorado's premier arts venue.

<http://www.handweaversofboulderentry.org/>

**July 1 2014:** Fiber Innovations is the first fiber arts show sponsored by the Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center (PACE) from Aug. 21 - Sept. 27, 2014. The show will focus on fiber art from the Rocky Mountain region. Non-functional wall art representing fiber media of all types are welcome. No entry fee. Up to three entries may be submitted. Artwork may be for sale or NFS. PACE will collect a 15% commission on all sales. For additional exhibit information and/or a prospectus, please contact Jan Thornton, 303-917-3402, [janinemthornton@yahoo.com](mailto:janinemthornton@yahoo.com)

# Meeting Summaries

## Behind Enemy Lines: The Juror

February 17, 2014

Kristi Backman

Applying for a show is like applying for a job.

**Research the Company:** Learn about the Show and the Juror

- Shows often have very specific themes or styles; make sure your work is a good fit.
- Research the Juror(s). Look at their work and affiliations. Look for any other shows they have juried. This will give you a sense of their aesthetic.

**The Application:** Submission Requirements

- Follow directions!

**Your Outfit:** The Photograph

Background

- Contrast the piece
- Black, White, Gray, Plain
- Velvet: light absorbent material
- Lights: white, two lights at 45° angles from piece

Detail

- Close enough to see stitches or weave of fabric
- Good representation of the overall piece, cross section
- Show off, pick an interesting area
- Obviously a detail, feels incomplete on its own

## What Is An ART Quilt?

March 17, 2014

Jo Fitzell

*(Thanks to Katie Fowler for providing this summary).*

If you missed Jo's presentation during the March meeting, following are a few key points. Jo shared with us the experience she has gained as a successful fiber artist and one of the founding members of Front Range Contemporary Quilters.

- When talking about art quilts, Jo likes to use the term "fiber art" as the word quilt has such a specific meaning for many.
- Jo shared the reference many fiber artists have to historical quilts. We create within a great historical tradition.
- While groups like Front Range are supportive and beneficial, Jo believes that art making is a spiritual experience and one must create from one's own voice.
- Think of studio time as a spiritual retreat. Class time should never exceed studio time
- Who is going to help with technical problems?
- No one else can make your artwork, don't rely on other people's work (I.e. quilts inspired by others' work)
- Not everything you make is art, some of them are "on the way" pieces.
- Try to make something you haven't seen before.

*Also see the feature article by Jo Fitzell on the next page – ed.*

# Feature Article ~ Jo Fittsell

## **Houston and Jack and the Beanstock** – a helpful exaggeration!

There are many versions of the story, “Jack and the Beanstock” but it basically goes like this: Jack, who lives with his mother, sells the family cow for some magic beans and is punished. The beans are thrown out the window, rendering a great vine, which Jack climbs to a new land. There he deals with the **giant**. He figures out that the **giant**, although large and threatening is not all that bright and he manages to steal from the giant enough gold to make his life below work.

Think of the **huge** industry whose sole purpose is to sell you something as the **giant** in the story. Massive amounts of fabrics, threads, gadgets, machinery, tools and classes. Think of the one thing that would help you be a better artist as the golden egg. How do you hide from the **giant** and obtain the precious egg without rousing him?

This is how I view the industry aimed at selling us products, many of which we don't really need. However, they might have the one thing you do need. How do you manage the crowds, the allure, and your own desire to find it and get out before you attract the attention of the GIANT? The one who would love to eat you up! Eat your time, eat your energy, and eat your desire!

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that we have everything we need to be an artist. Look around and look inside as well. Choose the one teacher who will help you solve the problem you are currently having with your own work. Although it is fun to take many classes socially, too much stimulation and too much simulation can dampen the creative spirit. And you end up being a pale echo of someone else's work.

Spend time in your own studio, doing research and development. Allow yourself the luxury of wasting time. Explore and believe in your own skills and talent and you will uncover the golden egg. And, when you absolutely need to venture out to find those cherished paint sticks, or the gallon of gel medium, put your hoodie on, walk purposefully and get what you need from the giant. If he spies you, don't listen to what he thinks you need! Listen to those small voices inside you....perhaps it is one of the seven dwarfs! Aha!

[www.jofittsell.com](http://www.jofittsell.com)

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# Blog of the Month ~ Marjorie Jannotta

*This is the first feature in a series to acquaint you with blogs of FRCQ fiber artists.*

**What is a blog?** *Blogs are like journal entries, but they are posted on a Web page. People can share experiences, reflections, photos and internet links with others. Blogs are typically updated frequently. They are a good way to catalog an artist's process, finished works, exhibits, accomplishments and everyday thoughts. ("Blog" is a shortened form of "Web Log.")*

## LINDA BEACH

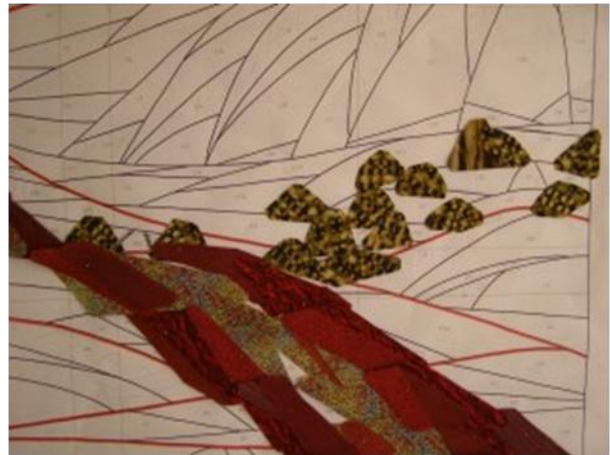
<http://www.lindabeachartquilts.com>

Linda Beach is a well-known artist who is adept at expressing themes of nature in fabric. Her blog details exactly how she approaches her art, with commentary and photos illustrating design approaches, techniques, and finished works. She is very generous in detailing how she thinks about and constructs her art, with complete commentary and photos that can lead to your own learning. She says she wants her blog to be "useful," "helpful," and "interesting." I found her blog to be all three, and more.

If you go to her website you can click on her blog and see how she develops and executes her ideas about nature. I am sure you will appreciate both the website and blog. If you scroll down most pages, you can leave comments. Linda says she would love to hear from you.

I won't spoil your experience of her site by writing more – just explore it on your own and enjoy.

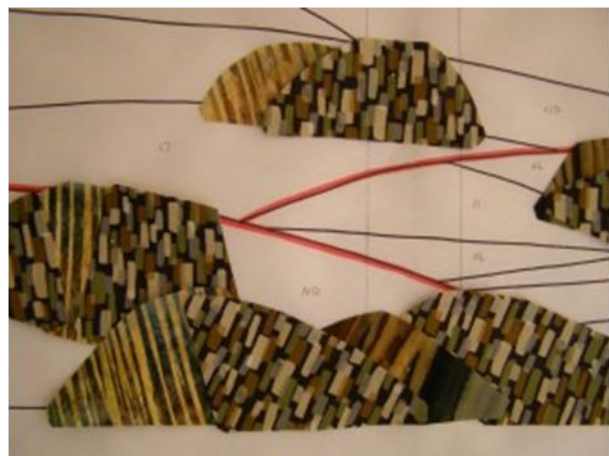
All photos in this article are from Linda Beach's blog or galleries. Here are some graphic examples from Linda's blog showing a step in her design technique.



*Distant bushes*



*Fabrics for distant bushes*



*Bushes in the foreground*

# Bits & Pieces from Members

## Quilting by the Lake

July 21-25 2014

Judith Trager

<http://www.quiltingbythelake.com/>

## Exploring the Surface: An Integrated Approach

This workshop will focus on simple but seemingly complex techniques--painting, free-motion machine embroidery, layering, and appliqué, and show you how to integrate these techniques with pieced work to create quilts and clothing which can be interesting and powerful.

## Beyond Crazy: Contemporary Crazy Quilt Technique as Background

This workshop will focus on simple but seemingly complex techniques--painting, stamping, silk screening, mono printing, layering, and appliqué, and show you how to integrate these techniques with pieced work to create quilts and clothing which can be interesting and powerful.

## Upcoming Classes with Jo Fittsell

### One-Day Marbling Class - \$60

At "The Garage" in Louisville

Saturday, April 26th 10 am-3pm

### Learning from Your Own Work

Three Wednesdays – 10 am-3pm

At "The Garage" in Louisville

April 23, 30th, May 7th

\$120

### A Two-Day Marbling Class

Saturday, July 19th & 26th

Check The Art Students League

For prices and times [www.asld.org](http://www.asld.org)

### A Two-Day Image Transfer Class

Saturday, June 14th & June 21st

Check The Art Students League

For prices and times [www.asld.org](http://www.asld.org)

For more information: [jofittsell@gmail.com](mailto:jofittsell@gmail.com)



## Fiber Earthspaces

Textile art by

**Annette Kennedy**

April 4- 29, 2014

First Congregational  
Church  
Longmont

Annette Kennedy is having a solo show at the **First Congregational Church** at 9th and Frances Streets in Longmont. It can be viewed between 10am and 2pm, weekdays and on Sunday mornings. During the week you need to enter at the church door on the northeast corner (the Gateway Montessori School and church office entrance) and let the office know you are there to see the show.

*Do you have something to crow about? We want to celebrate with you! Or want to publicize upcoming classes? Listing them in our newsletter is a benefit of membership. Send information to [news@frcq.org](mailto:news@frcq.org).*



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## 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.

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