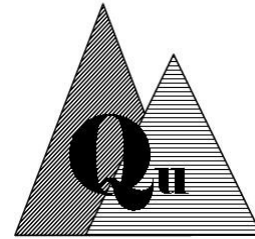


AQUA Net

www.theartquiltassociation.com

The Art Quilt Association
May 2010 Newsletter—Issue 48



Next Meeting:
May 15, 2010
Goodwill Industries Meeting Room
630 24 1/2 Rd.
Grand Junction, CO

The goal of AQUA is to explore textile manipulation and diversity of mixed media as an art form.

Jane Aldoretta introduced her friend Nicky who was visiting our Apr. AQUA meeting. We hope Nicky will decide to attend more of our meetings. It was also nice to see Bev Cormier there too. Rumor has it that she has renewed her membership after being very busy with duties in other quilt guilds in the area. Welcome back Bev!

The meeting started out with a discussion about the Apr. 27 pillowcase work session. Several members met at Jane's studio and had another fun and productive day. Carol Wilson seems to be getting it down to a good assembly line system where there are cutters, sewers, sergers, ironers, coordinators of all types that are successfully making a good number of pillowcases each session. The next date to meet at Jane's studio is scheduled for May 25 from 1-4 p.m. Please come and join in this effort to supply these pillowcases for cancer patients. We all leave knowing we've contributed something important to charity and also feeling the enjoyment of spending time with others who attend.

Website Warriors!!

Have you been referring to the website? It's chocked full of good AQUA information and information about regional and national events for textile artists. Rita Fausone and Kathy Pfeufer have been diligently supplying the latest on all such things and we deem them the *Website Warriors Extraordinaire!* Also notice the recent emails Kathy Pfeufer sends on a regular basis to inform us of changes that will simplify access to some of the existing website menus. You're doing a wonderful job keeping us updated on what's going on in the quilting world—thank you!

Jonathan Talbot

Deborah Snider reminded us about the series of workshops and lectures to be held at the Mesa State College Art Department by Jonathan Talbot, a well known mixed media collage artist. He was also scheduled for a presentation at Hi Fashion on Apr. 29. We are so fortunate to have such events occur at Mesa State and we rely on Deborah to keep us informed when such talented artists come to Grand Junction. Thanks Deborah!

Deborah also talked about an Integrated Arts program to come to Mesa State, but it is presently in the planning stages, so we'll look forward to more information as it becomes available.

Recaps and Reminders

Bev Hart workshop:

Deposits to reserve a space at Bev Hart's June 17 & 18 dye workshop were collected at the Apr. meeting. See Eldrid Schafer if you still want to get in on what is sure to be a very interesting and informative two days of valuable *dye data*. The supply list for the classes is on the website. Bev's workshops are well organized and you will learn more about the fabric dye process than you ever even thought about. She has more dye recipes than Paula Deane has pie recipes!

Canyon Voices I—Mesa Verde:

The pieces for the Mesa Verde exhibit are due at the June AQuA meeting and you should be preparing your artists statements and bio pages that will accompany the small format fiber pieces. We will also be working on matting those pieces from the kits Rita is supplying after the May meeting. See the website or the March AQuA newsletter for detailed instruction on this process. The kits are \$5 and will also be the technique used for the Silent Auction fundraiser we have scheduled in Sept. at Barnes & Noble.

For that event Eldrid Schafer's husband is designing a display screen on which we will showcase our small matted pieces. This will be a wonderful thing to have as part of our AQuA inventory as we will no doubt have other venues in the future where this will be a helpful and useful way to exhibit our work. Thanks so much to Robert Schafer for his generous offer to construct this screen for us.

Melody Randol workshop:

Kathy Schattleitner reminds us that the Melody Randol workshop is set up for Aug. 18,19,20, 2010 at Jane Aldoretta's Fabric Arts Studio. This workshop will focus on landscape quilts. You can see Kathy (or the website) if you need more information. Melody will also jury the *Singular Sensations* pieces we will be turning in Aug. 21 for the Pacific International Quilt Festival.



White Elephant Sale:

Marla Ferguson reminds us of the White Elephant Sale to take place at the July 17 AQuA meeting. Clean out your stash of sewing, quilting, yarn, fabric, books, all supplies related to art quilting. Then make a favorite pot luck dish to share. We'll all go home full and well outfitted for more creative art quilt projects.

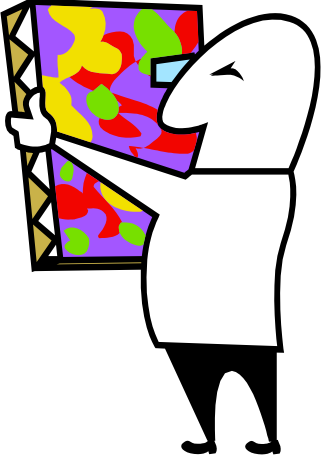
[Bring supplies to sell, food, cash or check](#)



Looking Ahead

There was also discussion about a Charlotte Warr Anderson workshop on free-motion quilting coming to the SSQ guild. And talk of possible interest in 2011 on portrait quilt artists. Sherrill Kahn's name also came up as a possible guest artist for future workshops. If you know of a fiber artist whose techniques you would like to learn, talk to the steers about those of interest to you as we need your input for the planning committees.

ABSTRACTIONS AND OLD FRIENDS



After much activity and box wrangling, Kathy Pfeufer and Angela Kenley managed to get all the quilts shipped to Denver for the two exhibits AQuA will have at the Denver National Quilt Festival this weekend. Fifteen quilts were accepted to show in the ABSTRACTIONS exhibit, and twenty-eight will hang for the OLD FRIENDS exhibit. The juror selected four pieces to receive Juror Mention in ABSTRACTIONS: They are:
Terry Lee — Canyon Shadows
Susan Strickland - Loving Memories
Angela Kenley - Fractured Fall Forest
Jan Rickman - Inner Connections

Thanks to everyone who submitted quilts for this show. Our Mancuso connection has proven to be a great opportunity to exhibit our work, and we appreciate all who helped in organizing this event.

While on this subject it was brought up at the Apr. meeting that after the Pacific International show, Angela and Kathy would like to turn over the Mancuso show duties to someone else. Kathy's up to her eyelashes in website work, and Angela stays pretty busy with the newsletter, so they are looking for a little shift in committee chores. Both will work with the new crew to show what is involved. The Mancuso staff is wonderful to work with and one of the perks of having the quilts at your house as they are awaiting shipping is you get to have a good, long peek at the quilts.

And on that subject, weren't you blown away by the quality of work on the quilts for both of these shows!? We can be very proud of the things we've learned and the confidence we are gaining with each challenge that we encounter in the world of textile arts.

Please see a steer member or Angela or Kathy if you would like to work on the Mancuso shows.

Gj's Jottings

I have no words of wisdom for you this month. I just have to say that each time I make a quilt and enter it into a juried show I learn more. When reading the juror's comments I learn what I need to do to improve. I also have to remember that this is one person's opinion at that time and the next juror who looks at it may have an entirely different opinion. Ultimately the quilt needs to be one that I like and am happy with, considering the skills that I have right now. Hopefully each quilt that I attempt will show growth in some area. I hope that you will all consider joining me in continuing this journey of growth.

Gjeneve Hopkinson



Do you ever think of silly things like who first discovered that freezer paper was for quilters to use to iron onto their fabric to make templates for appliqués? Do you really know anyone who actually wraps food in it to preserve and stick in their freezer?

\$\$\$\$\$

Kathy Schattleitner reports that AQuA has \$2650.00 in the bank account.

TURKEY RED....Submitted by Angela Kenley

If you have been quilting for any length of time you have no doubt heard a lot of terms tossed around that have absolutely no meaning whatsoever to husbands and the general non-quilting public; terms such as *fat quarter*, *sashing*, *walking foot*, *foundation paper piecing*. And if you're honest, you spent a lot of time pretending you understood those terms until you'd read enough quilting books to figure it out, or hung around long enough with other quilter types until you picked up the lingo. And by now I'm sure you are familiar with the term Turkey Red, mostly applicable to the more classic vintage patterns of long tradition in quilt history.

If you are being honest, you may have embarrassed yourself as I did when I finally revealed my puzzlement. So at the risk of making a fool of myself again, I'm going to share my testimony so that you too can have a good laugh at my expense.

Everyone knows that Turkey Red refers to the rich reds that were used so prominently in quilts in the late 1800's and even earlier than that. It took me a couple of years to finally get up the courage to ask the question" But what part of the *turkey* do they get that red color from?!" No other explanation ever entered my mind. But then of course everyone laughed and said, "Oh no, that means it is a dye that comes from the *country* Turkey."

Well, I'm about to have the last laugh because after recounting this story at the Moab retreat in Feb. , dear Kay Gregorich sent me this information about the actual derivation of the Turkey Red term. It doesn't refer to a color, a dye, a place, or a gobbling fowl for that matter, it is actually a dye process that produces a rich and incredibly colorfast, cool (bluish) red. Taking quotes from Kay's research—"Turkey" may suggest that's the place from which western Europeans first acquired the technique, it was actually brought to Europe by Jewish and Syrian dyers from the Levant. "Turkey" was simply the catch-all phrase for what we now refer to as the "Middle East". Although textile printers used madder root for other colors (from vivid orange to brownish-black), producing Turkey red with it was so complicated that they didn't attempt it themselves. Instead, they sent their fabric to Turkey red specialist to be dyed. The Society of Dyers and Colorists website describes the process as one which:

.....involved thoroughly cleansing the yarn or cloth by boiling with alkali; steeping in rancid olive or castor oil, soda and cow or sheep dung, mordanting with alum and sumac; dyeing in a batch of madder, ox blood and chalk; finally, washing to brighten the colour. In the early nineteenth century the process could take three weeks or more."

There is actually much more on this process and it's history in the material Kay sent me, so go to <http://hartcottagequilts.com/his3.htm> to read the entire article and see visuals.

Who knew there was so much involved with the process of acquiring this much coveted dye all those centuries ago?! Thanks so much to Kay Gregorich for her help in clearing up all the misinformation.

Keep On Sewing

- ◆ Certified sewing machine service.
- ◆ Service for embroidery machines and long arms.
- ◆ 90 day labor warranty.
- ◆ Free pick up and delivery in the Grand Valley.
- ◆ Quilting accessories!

Brian Davis 970-260-4441
service@keeponsewing.com www.keeponsewing.com

ADS

Gjeneve Hopkinson is looking for men's ties (silk or poly), denim pockets, and empty thread spools (large size). She prefers the wooden ones, but either will do.

SUE'S BLUES

If any of us thought we knew anything about the **indigo blue** dyeing process we only needed to hear Sue Van Vorhees' presentation at the Apr. meeting to realize how intricate and ancient it is. Not only did Sue impart a wealth of interesting facts about the history of indigo blue, she acted out and engaged the rest of the members in the study.

First she had all the people wearing blue to form a circle, making the point that blue is the most predominate color in our dress today. The majority of our members were in blue, in large part because of the blue denim most of us wear as our daily blue jean garb.



The wearers of the Blue



Then Sue proceeded to dazzle us with **blue** facts from ancient mythology of old to little known facts such as "blue has no edges". And **blue** states are Democrats (but we knew that!). And the term blue collar refers to the lengthy and laborious process the workers went through to extract the blue color from the indigo plants. She demonstrated how physical and intense the work was and explained complex and involved procedures that took place during this practice.

Sue must have done a tremendous amount of research to gather all the information she shared with us. She passed out many samples of indigo dyed fabric she has collected over the years from all over the world. The best part is the exquisite "Indigo Temple" piece she created which is now on exhibit at the Denver National Quilt Festival.

Emily Buchanan then showed us a kit containing indigo blue dye that seemed to have jars, vials, applicators, all manner of paraphernalia to apply the dye to fabrics. So now we consider Sue and Emily to be the go-to experts if we have questions about dying our fabrics **BLUE**.



Thanks Sue and Emily

Those Texas girls—Gay Ousley and Angela Kenley each have a quilt in the Texas Museum of Fiber Arts show called TEXAS—A Blending of Cultures Fiber Arts Exhibit. This will hang at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, TX May 1– May 31, 2010. For more information see www.texasfiberarts.org.

Show 'n Tell

Some interesting and varied items were displayed at the Apr. meeting—a clear demonstration of the diversity of the skills of our talented AQuA members.



Barb Scott showed us a beautiful small pouch or coin purse that she had intricately embellished with stray threads and tulle and blingy-things. She mentioned an article published in the Quilting Arts Magazine by Spike Gillespie as her inspiration.

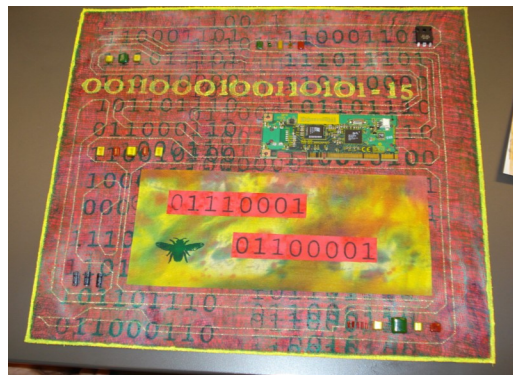
Gjeneve showing us some fabrics she dyed that resulted in some interesting patterns formed from her process. We love those unusual and unexpected little dye surprises!



“Just as contemporary quilters have adopted new materials and techniques to make quilt art, we have also adopted new technologies for meeting, socializing and sharing ideas. QuiltArt has given us a virtual meeting place—a modern quilting bee. Binary bits and bytes fly through the Ethernet, carrying pleas for help, inspired ideas, celebratory happy dances and consoling reassurances. I find it wonderful that an art form with such traditional roots thrives in such a high-tech world.”

These are the words Carole O’Brien wrote about her piece **Binary Bee** when she submitted it as part of the 15 year celebration of the Quilt Art Blog - <http://quiltart.net>

Carole O’Brien’s **Binary Bee**



Carole lists materials used : Hand-dyed silk, cheesecloth, commercial cotton, computer parts, beads
Techniques used: Screen printed, stamped, fused, hand-embellished, machine quilted.

Nancy Dobson’s Legacy

Nancy Dobson recently learned an exciting fact about one of her family members—a cousin who was an art historian at Oberlin College. Her name was Ellen H. Johnson and she was apparently quite well-known as she had in her lifetime known such renown artists as Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol, Georgia O’Keefe. One would imagine that a career meeting such illustrious people would be one we would all dream of.

Jan Rickman's Earrings

Jan showed us a sample of the earrings she makes to launch her new line of fashion earrings to celebrate the spring season. **Li'l Seeds** is the company name. They are made of a special paper called limestone paper and they feature sterling silver-plated hooks. Check out the blog to see all the styles available.

www.lilseeds.blogspot.com



Other Items to Note:

Many activities of interest to area fiber artists are listed in the Colorado Quilting Council publication. To conserve space we encourage you to use their website to get more information on regional events: gardnersdelights@comcast.net

Several of the AQuA members also have pieces hanging at the SAQA exhibits at the Denver National Quilt Festival.

Some AQuA members also submitted quilts to the online juried art gallery exhibit you received an email about—www.InfinityArtGallery.com

These are all places that may provide more opportunities to show your work, so you are encouraged to visit these websites often.

Calendar of Events



Angela will be returning the quilts and slats that were in the Denver Mancuso exhibits at the May meeting. If you are unable to attend please arrange to pick them up.

MAY 15—AQuA Meeting
JUNE 19—AQuA Meeting and CANYON VOICES II pieces due
JULY 17—AQuA Meeting—White Elephant Sale & Pot Luck Lunch
AUGUST 18,19,20—Melody Randol workshop
AUGUST 21—AQuA Meeting and PIQF entries due
SEPTEMBER 18—AQuA Meeting
SEPTEMBER—Silent auction at Barnes & Noble
OCTOBER 16—AQuA Meeting
OCTOBER—PIQF Show in Santa Clara, CA
DECEMBER 15—Book Fair at Barnes & Noble

AQuA Steering Committee Members: Gjeneve Hopkinson, Christie Barton, Rita Fausson, Susan Strickland, Kathy Pfeufer, Kathy Shattleitner, Angela Kenley
Angela Kenley and Emmalee Blender: Newsletter co-editors