

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
January 2010

Much life or art anxiety can be relieved by simply making something—anything.
Suzanne Edminster

President's Letter

Although it seems like ages ago, I hope you all were able to attend the Fine Art of Fiber. The show was spectacular and very well attended. Thanks go to all guild members who were involved on any level. Special thanks go to Gale Wessel, Lois Jacobs, Gretchen Alexander, Joan Nasiatka, Pat Rued, Bobbye Weisgerber, Pam Relitz, and Kay Kleczewski. Another special thank you goes to Sue Babbs who spends many hours every year surrounded by a crowd as she demonstrates bobbin lace.

January brings to mind images of cold starlit nights, blowing snow, and a cozy spot indoors where we can settle in and stitch. Even though we are in winter's grip, the daylight hours are beginning to lengthen again. Grass and insects lie quietly under the frozen earth waiting for the warmth of spring to burst forth.

Maybe your creativity is resting now too. It often takes me a while to rev back up after all the hoopla of the holidays. What I yearn to get back to is my own original work, but that takes a lot of energy. Working on an easy project can be enough to get me charged back up to develop my own designs. Often while relatively mindless projects keep my hands busy, my mind is finding its own way back to my creative self.

As my friend Pam Godderis says, "Once the creative process has begun, it will not stop... be patient with yourself and trust that the process is working. It *always* continues whether we are aware of it or not." Isn't that a comforting thought?

One fun exercise is to get out the scissors and glue stick and to rip or cut pages out of all those catalogues to make a collage. I randomly select colors, textures, shapes, and words and just paste away. This is a fun way to recycle holiday cards and letters too. You can rip up and paint over parts of the Jones' annual brag letter and they'll never know! Add a stitch or two by hand, or many by machine, and your creative juices should start flowing. Display your collage or not; the important part is the doing.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, and Creative 2010.

Mary Jo

CALENDAR

Tues. Jan. 5, 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops, at Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture, Katie Pasquini Masopust, The Art Quilt

Wed.-Thurs. Jan. 6-7 Workshop: Abstract and Non-Representational Quilt Design, Katie Pasquini Masopust

Tues. Jan. 19 at 10 am Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Thurs. Jan. 21 at noon. Deadline for January newsletter.

Tues. Jan. 26, One Step Beyond at Jeanette Page's home. See p. 5

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1/8 page \$4 per issue or \$25 for 8 issues

1/4 page \$8 per issue or \$50 for 8 issues

1/2 page \$16 per issue or \$100 for 8 issues

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January 5-7, 2010

Katie Pasquini Masopust

Fiber Artist, Katie Pasquini, has taught contemporary quilt design internationally. Her quilts and articles have been featured in many publications including *Fiber Arts*, *Quilting Arts*, *Quilters' Newsletter*, *American Quilters Society Magazine* and others. She has authored the following books: *Ghost Layers & Color Washes*, *Color and Composition for the Creative Quilter*, and her newest book, *Design Explorations for the Creative Quilter*.

Katie has won many awards throughout her career, but considers Best of Show at the Houston Quilt Festival in 1982 and 1986, and at the Pacific International Quilt Show in 1994, her best achievements. Her quilt, "Rio Hondo," was selected for inclusion in the 100 quilts of the 20th Century, and she was the recipient of the Silver Star award.

Lecture: The Art Quilt

Workshop: Abstract and Non Representational Quilt Design

This workshop will show you how to start with an original photograph or line drawing and create a departure from its reality.

We will do 6 + different exercises to explore the abstract and non-representational designs, these include, shape, line, blind painting, "cubing," zooming, abstract still life.

Composition, color schemes and a well thought out plan will be emphasized. A quilt design will be fully realized. Many different techniques will be discussed to help you create your quilt such as appliqué, piecing, fusing, collage, and painting and stamping on the surface

February 2-4, 2010

Mary Hettmansperger

Mary Hettmansperger is a fiber/jewelry artist exhibiting/teaching across the US and abroad. Arrowmont, Bead and Button, Convergence, national conferences, guilds and similar venues are some of the places she lends her instruction on jewelry, basketry, surface design and quilting. Mary's artwork is represented at SOFA-Chicago by the Katie Gingrass gallery. She has authored and illustrated 2 books on jewelry, *Fabulous Woven Jewelry* and *Wrap, Stitch, Fold and Rivet*. She is currently working on her third book, release date spring 2010 all three published by Lark/Sterling. Her work can also be found in: *500 Baskets*, *Fiber Arts Design Book 7*, *Fabulous Found Object Jewelry*, *Teapots Makers & Collectors*, *Beading with Crystals*, and others. Television segments include; the PBS programs, *Beads Baubles and jewels* and *Quilting Art*, along with published work in numerous magazines.

Lecture: Free-Range Fiber Artist

Workshop: Mixed Media Art Quilts

The focus of the class will be to incorporate a variety of surface items and techniques to simple pieced quilts. Students will learn to create a variety of surfaces and unique designs using craft wires, waxes, linen and other cordage materials to stitch, weave, twine, loop, knot, coil, connect and embellish. Using commercial connections, such as nuts and bolts, eyelets, brads, jump rings, and rivets students will learn a variety of cold connections and their possibilities.

Workshops

Our 5 remaining workshops for 2010 have been rapidly filling up. There are still several spaces in Carol Owen's workshop (Personal Spirit Houses--Mixed Media Construction) on April 7 & 8. This could be an opportunity for you to try something new. There is one space remaining for February. The January, March and May workshops are full, but you can place your name on the waiting list as changes may occur. Please contact me if you would like to sign up.

Barbara Fry, Workshop Chairman

A Gift in Memory of Bill Eich

To Bill Eich, family was everything. He encouraged and supported every creative endeavor his wife and children showed interest in exploring. Woodworking became his own artistic choice of creativity. His expressive art was well supported and acknowledged by the caring members of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild. Both Bill and his wife, Barbara, as well as daughter, Laurie, have been guild members for a while, enjoying the exciting imaginations and sharing attitudes of the NSNG community of artists. In memory of him, and as appreciation for this guild's warmth and acceptance toward all, we would like to gift this presentation station from wife Barbara, and children, Bill, Laurie (Korte), and David.



He lovingly handmade the cart with black walnut wood, tiles from home, and an eye for details. A DVD/CD player along with a document camera to enhance and increase the projection capabilities for showing were added to accompany the NSNG projector. All wired up and ready to-go with only a single connection to contend with for a computer add-on, makes the impossible looking, simply possible. Now all in the guild will be able to enlarge articles, show movies, listen to music, share printed photos on screen, project live demonstrations, small creations, specific details, and so much more, thus increasing enjoyment and inspiration overall.

FAOF '09 Raffle

Thank you to all contributors to the FAOF '09 raffle project, by selling tickets or filling the trunk, or both. We are truly grateful for your generosity and expect it will be returned to you 10 fold. The guild has been made stronger through your efforts.

Pam Relitz and Barb Eich

Annual Project

Now that the holidays are over and old man winter is at our door, it's a good time to really concentrate on your annual project. You've had a few months to plan and think about what you are going to do, so it's time for action.

Remember, the theme is "PATHWAYS". Very diverse in its meanings. The Annual Project will be displayed in April at our general meeting. The only requirement is that you use a threaded needle and that it be something you have made in the last 2 years.

So join in on the fun and show us your unique talents. Try a new product, a new technique or a new thought of your own. We love to see them all, and all of you are qualified. Plus, you could be awarded \$75 towards a workshop for the next guild year. Go for it!

Contacting editor by e-mail

Several months ago, my e-mail address changed and I notified all of the guild members. If you plan to send me an article for the newsletter, please check page 2 for the working addresses, as I cannot guarantee that I will receive anything sent to the old address.

Mary McManus

Wonderful Winter Workshops

Vat Dyes: Color Magic!

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 (2 spots left) and February 10, 2010
One day workshop

YOU can be your own best photographer!

Tuesday, January 12, 2010
One day workshop

Learn Photoshop:

Create Imagery for textiles!

Thursday, January 14, 2010 and Thursday, February 11
One day workshop

Explore New Ways to Make and Use Thermofax and Silk Screens!

Friday, January 15, 2010
One day workshop

Call or email me for more information:
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or go to my website:
www.barbaraschneider-artist.com

paid advertisement

Calls For Entry

Fantastic Fibers 2010: Awards. Entry fee. Juried. Deadline: February 5. An international competitive exhibition that seeks to showcase a wide range of outstanding works related to the fiber medium. Prospectus available online. Email: info@theyeiser.org

Small Expressions 2010 International juried exhibit of small-scale fiber pieces sponsored annually by the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. Deadline, US: February 8, 2010; Email: hgaconvergence@weavespindye.org

Enchanted—Yardage Exhibit. An international juried exhibit featuring lengths of constructed or embellished yardage. Entry Deadline, US: February 1, 2010. Email: hgaconvergence@weavespindye.org

Eye Dazzlers International juried exhibit open to work created using any fiber arts technique. Deadline, US: February 22, 2010; Outside US: Email: hgaconvergence@weavespindye.org

Walk in Beauty: Fashion Show and Exhibit. International juried exhibit featuring one-of-a-kind fashion that shows understanding of the body and body movement, along with runway presence and overall suitability of the technique and/or materials. Requirements: Digital images and handling piece. Deadline, US: February 15, 2010. Email: hgaconvergence@weavespindye.org

More than Fiber: A Creative Approach to Material. GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA | Cohen Gallery | March 7 – April 18, 2010. Juror: Warren Seelig. Email: ckober@goggleworks.org

One Step Beyond...

...will be January 26 at the home of Jeanette Page, 2339 Dehne Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062. If you plan to attend, please call Jeanette at 847-564-1057 to let her know.

Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party was full of yummy foods and much laughter. Once again Roberta Skelton made her delicious punch for us and Kay Kleczewski served as our Raffle Mistress, making sure all paper was carefully recyclable.

NSNG members Barbara Eich and daughter Laurie Korte demonstrated the new media cart that the Eich family generously donated to NSNG in memory of Bill Eich, also an NSNG member. We will miss Bill's presence but his handiwork will be with us for years to come.

A sad moment also came as we bid farewell to board member Debbie Plato who will be returning home to England before the end of the year. Debbie is the best lemonade maker I know. She chose to treat her time in the states as a course in the study of Fiber Arts rather than time away from home and family. We will miss you, Debbie.

Our hospitality hostess, Dorothy Fahey, ensured that all was festive with the addition of table cloths from the Dollar Store. Dorothy won the prize for going home with the most appropriate white elephant gift, a 1950s style hand embroidered apron complete with avocado green ball fringe.

The white elephant exchange (or bad gift recyclery if you prefer) almost yielded us a new member: one old dress form body, 2 hands, gloves, and a painted mask; all we lacked were feet & I'll bet some will show up next year!

Lest you think all was in bad taste, there were several sought-after gifts in our grab bag exchange including scissors, a good book or two, hand dyed fabric, tote bags, and some beautiful hand made items, plus many more goodies.

A fun, and filling, time was had by all.

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