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FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

Dreaming Big While Working Small – Karen Hewer

Do you ever start a project with big ideas filled with endless possibilities and techniques? Then later you find yourself weighed down by all those possibilities? If so, let’s learn from a friend’s story — how she focused her art and worked through big challenges by working small.

Karen Hewer, from our Central Oregon local connection, is a quiet soul with a wry wit and deeply compassionate spirit. She came to SAQA after retiring from her career as an educator, teaching life skills to children with special needs. I have always been drawn to her artwork as she captures tender and poignant moments in everyday scenes.

Like most of us, Karen’s artistic journey has had its hiccups. During an artistic lull she tuned into a SAQA Chat looking for some connection and motivation. Fortunately, she found it. “It was in a Zoom breakout room where I learned about posterizing an image from a fellow SAQA Oregon member.” This was her spark to try something new.

Karen decided to experiment while creating a piece for the SAQA Benefit Auction. “I think the SAQA programs (Benefit Auction and Spotlight Auction) are good venues for experimenting. I can try a new approach or a new technique and see if people like it.”

But like many of us, Karen had to overcome an artist’s self-doubt. “I must say, I had this fear that it would not sell. But in the end, I think I was more curious about how the idea would be received. I realized my curiosity was bigger than my fear.”

Looking back, the 12”x12” format for the Benefit Auction was



Muddy Puddle



Mud Glorious Mud

pivotal. “Maybe it’s the smaller size. I think I was free, more open to play. It’s just 12 inches.” She adds “If it works out, well great. If not, you just start over.”

Happily, Karen didn’t have to start over. She completed “Muddy Puddle” in 2020 and “Mud Glorious Mud” in 2021. Both pieces sold in the Benefit Auctions. “I was surprised and honored that my piece sold quickly. When it sold easily, it was a real boost to my confidence. I’m thinking ‘Somebody really likes this!’”

Karen was in for another surprise. After “Mud Glorious Mud” sold, she learned a SAQA member she admired now owned her work. I asked if that was another boost to her confidence. With wide eyes and subtle smile, she shared “That was huge.”

Karen’s advice to those considering making an artwork for SAQA’s upcoming sales: “Do it! It is a great experience to create something and see your work online. And it’s for a good cause. I wanted to give back. SAQA has given me so much. It feels good to give back. I like the idea that SAQA grows from my contribution. In fact, it was such a positive experience, I mark the due date on my calendar.”

If you would like to mark your calendar:

SAQA Spotlight Auction - registration deadline is February 20, 2023

SAQA Benefit Auction - registration deadline is June 30, 2023

SAQA Oregon Conference 12 x 12 Sale - TBD in August 2023

For complete information on these upcoming opportunities, go to Spotlight Auction <https://www.saqa.com/events/2023-spotlight-auction-call-submissions> and Benefit Auction <https://www.saqa.com/auction>

BIOPHILIA: THREADS OF NATURAL WONDER

New Dates for Biophilia Call for Entry Now July 10 – August 15th, 2023

The Biophilia committee, after much discussion, has decided to extend the deadline for submission from April 30 to August 15, 2023. The reason for this change is the lack of available venues for late 2023. Many galleries and museums have full schedules as they catch up with shows that were postponed due to covid closures.

We believe it is better to give artists more creative time and not have the accepted quilts sit idle for months before their first showing. You will find the updated prospectus posted on the SAQA global and SAQA Oregon websites.

Find full details here:

<https://www.saqa.com/events/biophilia-threads-natural-wonder-saqa-regional-call-entry>

We hope you all consider entering this dynamic show.

EMERGENCE EXHIBIT

After a successful exhibit at the Multnomah Arts Center, the quilts from the Emergence book are going to the Maude Kerns Art Center in Eugene. The exhibit opens on February 24th with a reception from 5-7pm. There will be an artists' talk on Saturday, March 11th, from 2 - 3 pm. The exhibit closes on March 24th.

Congratulations to Terry Grant and Sherrie Moomey whose quilts have sold.

I want to say a big thank you to Kristan Collins who took the lead on an Art for All event at the Multnomah Arts Center. And thank you to all her helpers!

Gerrie Congdon. Emergence Book Committee



Art for All Event

The Art for All program at the Multnomah Arts Center was a huge success. Our fearless team supported an estimated 130 attendees in a creative play activity, creating personal artworks from precut circles, leaves, and squiggles. It was a fast-paced, fun evening filled with an overwhelming spirit of play and creativity.

Please share your Thank You's with the many helping hands who made this a truly remarkable event.

Fabric Donation
SAQA Volunteers

Jana Engle and Gerrie Congdon
Cheri Jolivette, Lulu Moonwood Murakami, Tina Ryan,
Toni Smith, Amanda Snavely, Joan Spencer, Marie Wolfe
Significant Other Volunteers Scott Collins, Jim Ryan, James Smith, Gerry Spencer

Images from the event:



IN MEMORIAM – MARY ANN MCCAMMON

by Kathie Kerler

A well-known member of our community passed away just after Thanksgiving. I knew Mary Ann from her work with both Coffee Creek Quilters and Quilts for Empowerment in Kenya. When I was a contributing editor, I wrote an article for *The Quilt Life*, describing the program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and I've attended the auction held on behalf of the women in Kenya. At one auction, I won a small quilt whose proceeds went to benefit Fistula survivors. If you're wondering what the message says, "Kuku eating butterflies".

I know many of us knew Mary Ann well and contributed to her efforts, either financially and/or through volunteer work. I am in awe reading about her many accomplishments.



Mary Ann McCammon, 80, of Sherwood, Oregon, passed away on November 25, 2022, peacefully at home surrounded by family. Mary Ann was born October 14, 1942 in Kansas City, Missouri.

For nearly 60 years Mary Ann worked tirelessly to improve the health and welfare of, and services to, women and girls affected by poverty, pregnancy, abuse, and disability through her practice, teaching, and research. Mary Ann began her educational journey at the University of Missouri, School of Nursing (1964) and she completed her PhD in Nursing at the University of California at San Francisco (1979). She was a Professor Emerita at Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon, where she continued her research focusing on improving the health of marginalized women.

In addition to Mary Ann's passion for women's health, she loved to garden, hike, practice yoga, bicycle, travel (visiting all 7 continents), cook for family and friends, and quilt. She turned her love of quilting into helping others: teaching quilting skills to women in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Oregon, to women in a rural Mexican fishing village, and in 2015 to women in Kenya. She established Quilts for Empowerment in 2017 for the expansion of her work in Kenya.

Mary Ann is preceded in death by her parents, Ethel and Herman Huesgen; her son, Brad Curry; her daughter Megan Curry. Survivors include her loving husband, Steve McCammon; brother Bob (Paula) Huesgen; sons-in-law Ryan (Dana) McCammon and Taylor (Joy) McCammon; nephews Bobbo (Tracy) Byrnes and Chad (Debbie) Huesgen; nieces Sarah Huesgen and Beth Huesgen; two grand-nieces and one grand-nephew.

Mary Ann's family and loved ones are planning a celebration of life to be held in the spring, her favorite time of year. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to <https://www.quiltsforempowerment.org/donate>

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Central Oregon

Meeting: What Were the Judges Thinking? presented by Kathie Kerler
February 16th, 3pm, by Zoom



Kathie will cover the judging pathway judges use to evaluate quilts, which includes general appearance, design and workmanship. Kathie will also discuss scoring methods, the two judging floor set-ups, and the decision-making process in this hour-long presentation.

Kathie is a graduate of the London City and Guilds College of London, England, and studied at the Lesage School of Needlework in Paris. For seven years, she was a contributing editor of American Quilter Magazine. As a Qualified Instructor for the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges (NACQJ), she teaches a two-day judging seminar. Kathie is currently on the board for SAQA National.

— Leotie Richards, lotidesignworks@gmail.com
Central Oregon Local Connection Facilitator

Portland Metro Area

Meeting: Critiques

Wednesday, February 15th, 11am-1pm; hybrid - in person and simulcast

The Downtown Hive, 233 SE Washington St. Hillsboro, OR 97123 or via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82171108902?pwd=N3dCK2w0WTIXaU1RMVBQeDVtd3JUQT09>

For our February meeting we will meet in-person at a venue that is set up for simultaneous Zoom meetings! If the Internet gods are with us, you will have the choice of joining us in person or connecting via your computer. Here are some logistics about the venue if you can join us in person:

- The Downtown Hive has a small parking lot for members who need to park close by.
- There is also on-street two-hour parking, and a nearby parking structure with longer term parking. The parking garage is located at the corner of Washington St and 1st Avenue at the Washington St Conference Center. *(Please note that the first two levels are for jury duty only, so don't park there!)*
- If you would like to take the MAX, the nearby stop is at 3rd and Washington, only a block and a half away from The Hive.
- Bringing a lunch is allowed at this venue, but Tina will tell you that there are plenty of great eateries in Downtown Hillsboro. You can check www.downtownhillsboro.org for suggestions.

If you'll be joining in via Zoom, the usual link is posted above.

Agenda

- **Announcements**
- **Boasts and Brags**
- **Program** — Revisiting the topic of critique with members volunteering their work for this exercise. Member and regional rep Kat Puente has volunteered to bring in a piece. We would love two more members volunteer to share work for this process. Previously I had sent out a list of the principles of art and elements of design. I will send it to LoConPDX

again so that you'll have the opportunity to review it before the meeting. We hope to have a great practice session of how to give an objective critique based on the elements and principles.

- **Show and Tell:** Please bring work in person or send photos to Tina (tina.sews.ryan@gmail.com) of anything you'd like to share. I would ALSO like to make a special request that if you have already created a piece for the SAQA Auction that you share that in order to inspire the rest of us to get busy to send something in.

Looking forward to seeing you all next week!

— Lulu Moonwood Murakami (lulumoon9@yahoo.com)
— Tina Ryan (tina.sews.ryan@gmail.com)
Portland-Metro Local Connection Co-Facilitators

Valley-South

Meeting: STARTS group discussion
February 17th, 1pm via Zoom; link will be sent out prior to meeting

Valley-South's January meeting featured a presentation by Karen Miller about her experience creating vestments for the new Oregon Episcopal bishop. She included photos of her design process, details on sewing the various vestments and the finished pieces. Thanks to Karen for documenting and sharing with us such an amazing project.

February's program will include a discussion by our "Starts" group. Several Valley-South members participated in a month-long project to spend time in their studios each day creating the "start" of a new design. Sheryl LeBlanc introduced the idea last year and three people participated. This year several more members joined in. They will share what they learned and how the experience has impacted their practice. Thank you, Sheryl, for introducing a new way to get ourselves inspired for the new year.

— Sheryl Le Blanc chinabug5@yahoo.com
— Mandy Miller miller_am@comcast.net
Valley-South Local Connection Co-Facilitators

MEMBER NEWS AND SHOW-AND-TELLS

Barbara Triscari
www.triscartsi.com



I've just added Oregon as my second region to share meetings and calls for entry with SAQA Oregon member Tina McCann, my mother. *(continued on next page)*

“LeGrandine”

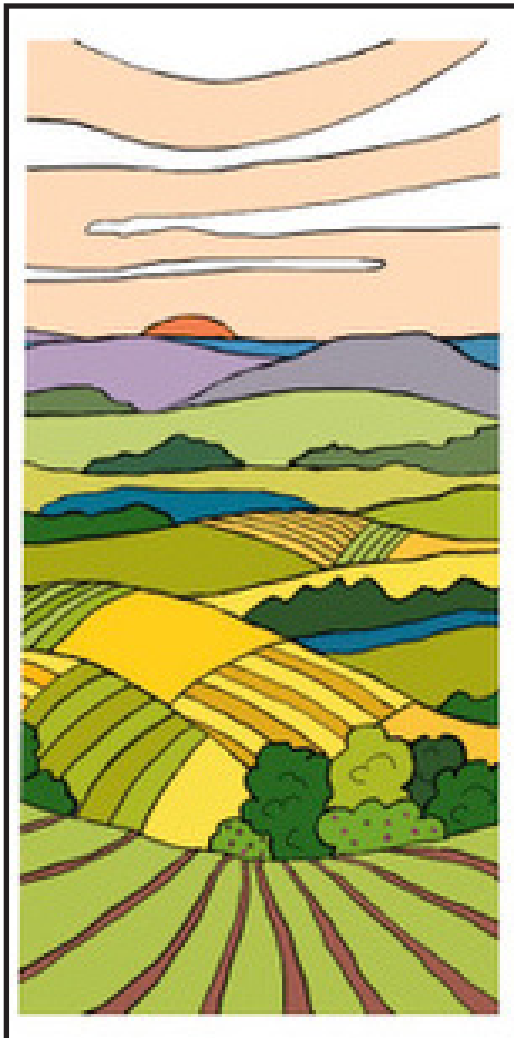
I recently sold a piece, “LeGrandine”, that was delivered to a purchaser in Iowa. A photograph of the same piece was made into a vinyl mural that is currently hanging in the Indianapolis airport (my closest airport). It is in a secure area where you would see it leaving the gates. So keep an eye out for it if your destination is Indy.

Lisa Flowers
lisafloversross.net

At the beginning of the year, Lisa Flowers Ross, an Oregon second region member, became one of the newest artists at **Capitol Contemporary Gallery** in downtown Boise, Idaho. She will be one of the featured artists in March with an opening reception on March 1st, 5:30 - 9pm and an artist event on March 9 at 5:30 pm.

In addition, Lisa Flowers Ross has been chosen by the Tualatin Valley Creates

“In Vein III”



organization to create a public artwork for the city of Hillsboro for the Main Street Commons project. The artwork will be replicated for display on large rigid panels attached to the walls of the building. Three artists were chosen to create works specifically for this project. The image to the left is of Lisa’s proposed design (middle panel).



Glenda Mah

“Periculum Avian”



My piece titled “Periculum Avian” (Birds in Peril) received the **NACQJ Merit Award** from Judge Kathie Kerler. My piece attempts to reflect the loss of habitat for migratory birds using wetland and marshes. I used hand dyed Indigo and stitch resist shibori to design the representational bird and the hand painted tree and water background with jute twine to represent the loss of plant life. A traditional sashiko pattern was quilted to represent the water.

“Embrace” was accepted into the **Spiritual Visions exhibit** at Fontbonne University Fine Arts Gallery, in St. Louis, Mo, Jan 27, 2023-February 25, 2023.

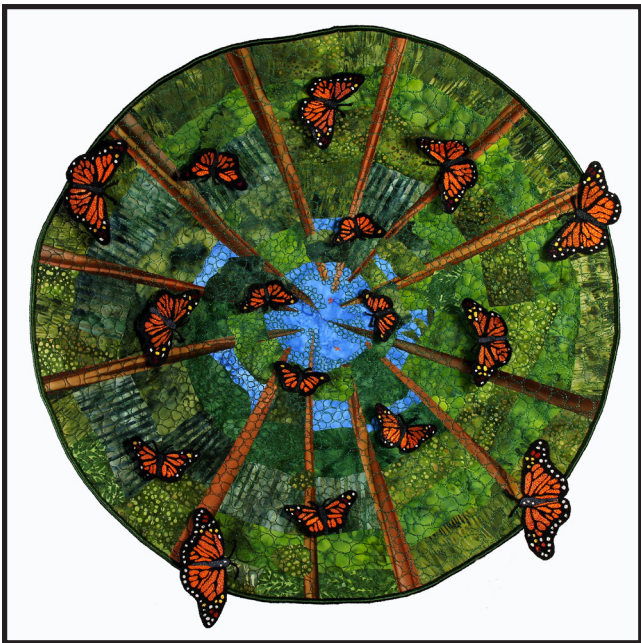
Naomi Weidner

I was invited to loan “Bowl of Oranges” for display in the residence of the **US Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand**. The loan is facilitated by the *Art in*



“Embrace”

“Bowl of Oranges”



“Monarchs: Souls of the Dead.”

Embassies program under the U.S. Department of State for a period of 2-3 years. “Bowl of Oranges” is a 3-D piece and, at the ambassador’s request, will be accompanied by a similar flat piece, “Monarchs: Souls of the Dead.” Monarch butterflies hold special significance for many Mexican people.

I created Bowl of Oranges in 2013 in response to the SAQA Oregon “Exploring Layers” exhibit.

EXHIBITS – Non-SAQA

Annual Oregon Quilt Festival

A Thank You from Glenda Mah

I want to thank all of the artists who submitted pieces to the **First Annual Oregon Quilt Festival**. There were some serious bumps along the way. I appreciate all of you being flexible and willing to continue with submissions, despite the difficulties. Apologies to those of you if your piece did not get hung or displayed properly. Discussions are underway to address all the issues to ensure a better show next year.

Thank you once again - I hope you will continue to support the festival so that fiber art is a prominent feature. Congratulations to all award winners!

Important Links:

SAQA Global: <http://www.saqa.com/>

SAQA Oregon: <https://www.saqaoregon.com/>

SAQA Oregon Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saqaoregon/>

SAQA Global Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saqaart/>

SAQA Oregon Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAQAOregon/>

SAQA Global Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mySAQA/>

If you have an Instagram account, you can use the following hashtags: #saqaart, #saqaartist

Questions, comments, suggestions, ideas, complaints?

Contact one of your reps: Kristan Collins: colorkcc@icloud.com

Kat Puente: kathypuente50@gmail.com

Newsletter: Pat Fifer: pfiferpdx@gmail.com

