

# Newsletters in August 2013

## Art Clinic August 2013

August 10, 2013

**Happy summer days my friends,**

When last we chatted, I was awaiting the baby's arrival. He is here and adorable. The night before my flight out to Colorado, my daughter called at 9p to say it was time. We piled in her car, left BaPa to watch the girls, and off we all went to the hospital. I had to leave the hospital no later than 6a to make my flight and the little darling showed up at 5:30a. One kiss and I was off and running with no sleep but a happy heart.

My dear quilting friend Kathy Wylie visited last month from Montreal. Her Quilt, "**Flourish on the Vine**", won Best of Show, Quilt Canada!! (Plus the Founders Award in Houston). [www.kathykwylie.com](http://www.kathykwylie.com) Congratulations Kathy. One of our favorite topics is DESIGN. We are both passionate about it. Kathy is a judge like me and we don't always have the same favorites. Yes, there is a pattern for this quilt.



Which brings me to my design workshop this month at the Pacific West Quilt Show. I am so excited, the class is full with 24 students. Visual Impact is the first thing we all notice about a quilt. There are lots of ingredients that make that happen and you can learn those to insure that your quilt will have some of them. What fascinates me *more* is figuring out what appeals to you individually and how you can apply that to your own work. When you go to shows... find the quilts you love. Stand there and analyze them for line, color, value contrast, unity and variety of shapes, movement, and balance. Then find the ones that really don't work for you. It's just as important to take time with those so that you can figure out what is visually appealing to you and

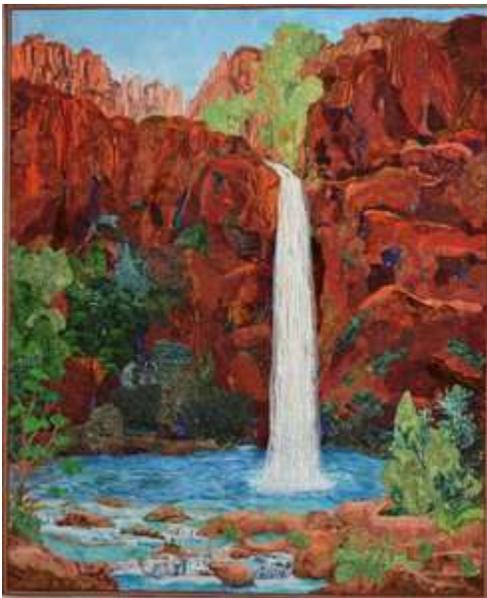
WHY?. Everyone is different. It's one of the helpful ways to find your own artistic voice. Some day I am going to do a design DVD but I haven't been able to figure out how to do it really interactively like I do in my workshops.

### **Newest Quilt- Havasu Falls**

**46.5 x 56.5**

Havasu Falls is a 13 mile hike down into the Grand Canyon on the Havasupai Reservation. The creek acquires its striking blue-green water color from sunlight reflected off limestone bearing a heavy concentration of suspended calcium carbonate. The terraced spillways are ubiquitous to this section of the creek.

I gave Bruce a birthday present trip to the Grand Canyon this year *with an ulterior motive*. (I really wanted pictures from this place but had no intension of driving down a dirt road for 60 miles only to hike into a 94 degree canyon and then have to hike back up and out again). The colors are so incredible! I will spend some time next month talking about all the fabrics I used in this one.



**August Art Clinic Tip.** Let's take a look at this quilt by Melida Hoch. As many of you know, any project that you start in my class is up for continuing e-mail help from me.

What a fantastic composition. Melida captured the essence of a special scene. Interesting, vibrant complimentary colors. Good foreground, mid ground, and back ground. The only thing I was concerned about was the grey hill in the distance. There was too much contrast to the hill behind. As we recede into the background, one of the primary ways to create a sense of depth is to have everything have less and less contrast. It should start beginning to blur together. Details

disappear, colors become much more muted. I also suggested she add some shading to her water to create a sense of depth and a source of light. Melinda did a little revising and I asked her if I could share it with all of you. Love the inner border. Great Job Melida!!

There is another great finished landscape scene from one of my students at Empty Spools. You can view it also on my web site. Darlene Silverman. <http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/gallery/8/>



Pre Kathy's advice on shading the water and darkening the purple mountains.



After Kathy's great advice on blending, unity and highlighting...

**News from Walrus Designs** - I have been working on 3 new project oriented workshops and patterns. Here is the first one, which might give you a hint as to the exciting news I will share with you next month. This pattern is available now!



"The Quilt Life" magazine is going to use "Jingle Bells" as their photo finish quilt for their winter edition. My horses are so excited. Now if Ricky Tims will just notice them and ask me to come be on their show. Cross your fingers for me someday.

**Great Resource** - I needed to design some pre-printed blocks for a new workshop. [www.spoonflower.com](http://www.spoonflower.com) is an easy site to use for photo transfers, designing your own background fabric, etc. I like to use the cotton poplin; a touch more expensive but very worth it.

**New book- Fill'er Up**. Great quilting filler designs by Renae Haddadin (winner BOS Paducah this year with Karen Kay Buckley). I have it and I think it has some great ideas and photos for inspiration. Remember if you are interested, buy the book from her. [www.renaequilts.com](http://www.renaequilts.com)

Sorry for the length of this newsletter. I have lots to chat about when I take a whole month off.

Big summer hugs.

Kathy