

Newsletters in August 2015

[Kathy Quilting tips/july](#)

August 2, 2015

Summer time!

We just got home from 4 days at the ocean with the grands. They spent the first day rushing jelly fish down to the waves. " We have to save them, Oma". It was hot and the little jellies were getting pretty dry.

What an amazing week this has been. AQS called from Syracuse to tell me that I had won one of the big awards for our Ophelia. (She really does belong to all of you who helped in the naming contest).

"Best Original Design" This award is right up there with "Viewers Choice" for me. Unbelievable.

Remember when Bruce suggested I do an animal, maybe an octopus?

I complained after a non stop schedule for several months, that I just wanted to make something frivolous and fun. I had made an octopus about 5 years ago. Not a quilt but a soft sculpture of sorts. Off to the Seattle Aquarium to study and photograph them again.



There she was! OMG, she came out of her corner and flowed across the glass in a beautiful dance.... right in front of me. I felt like she was strutting her stuff and showing off just for her art debut. "What a Diva of the deep she was". 8 legs, 3 hearts, suckers that taste and smell. This extremely intelligent animal can mimic any color, pattern and texture in their environment. With excitement and great respect I started brain storming for a design idea. Yes, I could just put her in a natural setting, maybe have her half way thru changing from one color to another. Hmmm, not very exciting. I wanted to show their really playful side. This one had escaped the tank twice. **One of the tricks I use when starting the original design process is; do some word association.**

Diva. What convey's a temperamental, beautiful diva better than a Mucha painting?

Alphonse Maria Mucha (24 July 1860 - 14 July 1939) was a Czech Art Nouveau painter and decorative artist, most well known for his images of women.



Would it really work to put an octopus into this style of design? That's a totally wacky idea! Should I really put hundreds of hours into this crazy idea? Nothing else was making me smile and skip around as much as this idea did.

"Quilting only has to make me happy", I kept telling myself. The trouble is that even though we all know that we should live by that motto, how others receive our color combinations, mixture of patterns, shapes, and fabric choices do matter to us. It is scary and vulnerable to put our designs out their for others to comment on.

I got this e mail from a lady last year and it still bother's me. (I know..... put my big girl panties on.)

Kathy, as a quilter and bird lover I can't resist letting you know the quail pattern in AQS startled me. Quail are not blue--they don't roost in trees, and one pair will hatch at least 10 young at a time. Though the pattern is a

lovely one, anyone who knows quail would not use it. You are otherwise a generous and very talented artist and quilter. I'd love a really good quail pattern!

If blue tinted quails on blackberry bushes are going to bother them, this Art Nouveau octopus is going to go down like sand in rice. Oh, well the idea is still making me giggle.

Check out Carla Gentry's version of the "New Blessings" pattern in my [student gallery](#). She did a great job.

'Best original Design' I am still incredulous. Thank you Irene for naming her Ophelia, apparently she is bringing joy to others too. I still don't know if she is planing to eat Nemo or just playing with them.



" Song of the Sea" was made using the Appliquick method. Being able to turn my edges over the interfacing (it stays in) really allowed me to make a perfect arc and perfect circles. The corners were not "reverse" appliquéd. Instead, I cut out the corner designs using the interfacing, like you would for a paper snow flake. It was then ironed to the wrong side of the fabric. The edges were turned under and then the whole piece was laid on top of the background fabric. It could be machine or hand appliquéd at this point. I hand appliquéd it because it was easily accessible in the corner. If it had been in the middle of a large design, I probably would have machine appliquéd the prepared shapes.

That's just yarn couched onto the binding. My hope was that it would look like a fish net??? 321 suckers. They are tightly scrunched up Yo yo's. I lived to say; "never again, looks cool but you are insane".

Watch the free video of me painting /shading her mantle if you are one of my new subscribers. I have lots of free YouTube videos. I used my beloved fabric paint crayons to do the shading / color changes.

Have I ever mentioned how much **I love quilting "in the ditch" with silk thread?**

It goes into the seam like butter. We have silk thread in my on line shop.

<https://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/category/thread/>

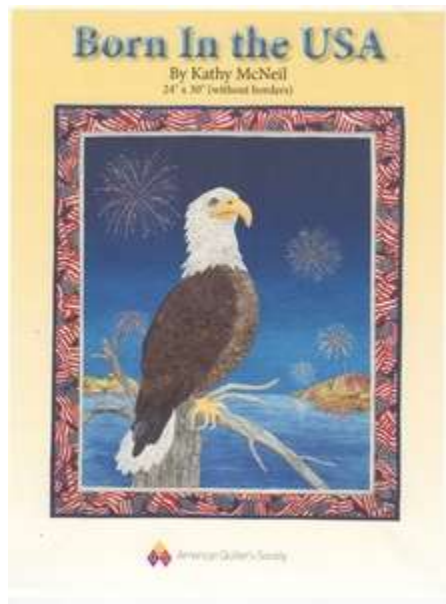
Other Big News-

I have a brand new web site!

Lots of free educational articles, You tube videos, and pinterest inspirations. Check it out.

Be sure to look for the FREE appliquéd pattern in the shop. Just find the [click here for details](#) and print the pattern out with the directions at home.

www.kathymcneilquilts.com



My newest pattern published by AQS. 24 x 30"

Making its debut in Syracuse this week, it has 4 pages of detailed instructions and close up, in progress, photos. There are tips for fabric choices and appliqué methods. Available now in our shop. \$13.95 this week only. (\$14.95 AQS set price).

<https://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/product/eagleborn-usa/>

Use my design or place the eagle in an original setting of its own. **What words do you associate with eagles?**

The latest from AQS is the on line workshops will go live some time in August.

As soon as they release the links to my workshops, I will send you all a newsletter with how to purchase your own workshop to keep and review as often as you want.

Have a super summer everyone.

Hugs and happy designs,

Kathy.