

Newsletters in October 2015

November tips from Kathy McNeil

October 29, 2015

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Of course those intrepid Canadian quilters have already leaped into their pumpkin pie! My suitcases have been really busy since the last newsletter. My first trip was to Denver to tape "The Quilt Show" with Ricky Tims and Alex Anderson.



Awesome, but totally scary experience. Since all 2,000 of you are my dearest and most trusted friends I will tell you that they had to pull me into the green room to blow dry my armpits because I was sweating bullets! (True.)

I had the most fun showing Ricky how to use my paint crayons. I asked him to give this snowy owl a colorful makeover.

Guess who now owns a Ricky Tim's master piece? Pretty sneaky.



<https://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/product/fabric-paint-crayons/>

Alex got to play with twin baby panda's that I made for the segment on **unit appliqué**. My show #1802 and will be featured for two weeks beginning Jan. 18th. I will remind you all in the Jan. newsletter and on my Facebook page.

Are you a friend of mine on Facebook yet? There is a link on my web site.

Send me a request if you do Facebook, so we can keep in touch. www.kathymcneilquilts.com

Then there was a fabulous trip to Toronto, and the York Heritage quilt guild and my friend Kathy Wylie. Then a fabulous quilting cruise to the Panama Canal. Super great ladies and we had a ton of fun!



TAS - Stands for the Appliqué Society. We are several hundred members strong, who love all ways to applique. Members get a great free newsletter with interviews from national teachers, pattern designers, free patterns, etc. New books, articles and gadgets are reviewed, so you are always up to date on the latest things appliqué. Check out our Facebook page and web site. BECOME a member and get your newsletter for \$25.00/year.

<http://www.theappliquesociety.org>

Ribbon's and Things.

Three pretty new ribbons.

That "Ophelia" the octopus is having the best time in the show world. She scooped up Best Wall quilt at PIQF. My new "Language of Flowers" got Best Pictorial Wall and "Havasu Falls" won a 3rd place in Nature quilts at Houston.

Am I taking a break? No, a **fox** has been haunting me since seeing my first wild one this fall. She has invaded my dreams, grabbed half of the available neurons still functioning in my brain and generally pestered me until I surrendered and started drawing.

Foxes are prevalent in mythology in all cultures. In both Asian and Celtic lore, they are messengers and shape shifters, often appearing in female form. They symbolize wisdom, quick wits, and adaptability. Here is the part that gave me chills..... Guess what I only discovered this week?

The Celtic Fox Goddess's name is Shona. *My oldest daughter's name is Shona. Who knew? It was Gaelic and went with McNeil.* My daughter is wise beyond her years. She had to be since her older brother is significantly developmentally delayed with an uncontrollable seizure disorder. She is adaptable and quick witted in her personal and professional life as a nurse practitioner. Watch for - in progress pictures of my Celtic Fox coming soon.

Tips: Remember - you can be a shape shifter! Shift your shapes until they're interesting!!

We're attracted by variety not by uniformity. Look at SHAPES, not objects; try to forget you are looking at boats in a harbour, or flowers in a vase...rather, triangles arranged interestingly on a horizontal plane, or circles above an elongated rectangle. Notice how shapes vary in size, regularity and color on quilts you are attracted to. Think about how Modern quilts have exploded. It's all about those shapes. The big secret to artistic success is making something that people want to look at - again and again.



Instructor

iquilt on line streamed workshops by the American Quilter's Society are now available.

Once you buy the class they are yours to watch again and again. \$34.99 is such a great deal. I packed everything I teach in a 6 hour workshop into these classes.

<https://www.iquilt.com/>

Step by Step Landscape quilts from your favorite photos.

Kathy McNeil shows how to create your own landscape quilt using her pattern or adapting her strategies using your own landscape photographs! Learn as you make this featured project.



- LESSON 1. CHOOSING SUBJECTS & PHOTOGRAPHS
- LESSON 2. EDITING & DESIGN SECRETS
- LESSON 3. MAKING A PHOTO INTO A WORK OF ART
- LESSON 4. EXPLORING SUBJECT
- LESSON 5. PLANNING THE BACKGROUND
- LESSON 6. CONSTRUCTING THE BACKGROUND
- LESSON 7. PIECING BACKGROUND SQUARES
- LESSON 8. PAINTING TECHNIQUES
- LESSON 9. ROUGH AND FINISHED EDGE APPLIQUÉ
- LESSON 10. HAND & MACHINE APPLIQUÉ

Watch the introductory movie trailer. <https://youtu.be/wOcNPdE8ILs>

[Click here to buy the workshop.](#)

Audubon's Christmas quilt.

Audubon's Christmas is a delight to behold. This award-winning quilt truly captures the beauty of winter in more ways than one. With quilt designer Kathy McNeil's help, you too can make this majestic showpiece. You will receive the owl block to work on in this workshop.



- LESSON 1. INTRODUCTION
- LESSON 2. UNDERSTANDING THE PATTERN
- LESSON 3. SELECTING FABRICS
- LESSON 4. BLOCK-BY-BLOCK REVIEW
- LESSON 5. APPLIQUÉ TECHNIQUES
- LESSON 6. CONSTRUCTING A BLOCK
- LESSON 7. PLAYING WITH PAINT
- LESSON 8. DEPTH & VISUAL EFFECTS
- LESSON 9. MACHINE APPLIQUÉ
- LESSON 10. FREE-MOTION QUILTING TIPS
- LESSON 11. PRAIRIE POINTS
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- Watch the introductory movie trailer. : <https://youtu.be/csUXGjHTm9M>

[Click here to buy the workshop.](#)

I wish you the most wonderful Thanksgiving with those you love.

Hugs,
Kathy