

Newsletters in September 2015

Kathy's Quilting tips Sept

September 23, 2015

Hello dear friends,

Fall began with a huge crash here. The entire top of our huge maple tree came down during a big storm. It ripped our power lines right off the power pole. 300,000 people in the greater Seattle area were without power. After 3 days without hot water, refrigerator, or lights, we rented a generator. My youngest daughter finally taught me how to make my smart phone into a Wi-Fi hot spot. With the freezer constantly on the generator you get to choose one more appliance, so now I had short computer sessions. By day 5 with NO Quilting I was losing it.

It's a good thing creativity is my game.



By Golly it worked!! Six and a half days without power!!!

This month is going to be my student showcase month.

Everyone please join me in celebrating with my wonderful, talented, and enthusiastic students.

Joy Heggund won an **Honorable Mention** in the Houston IQA show on a piece we started in one of my two day landscape workshops in Duncan, BC. Yeah Joy!!! She is going to have a great time at the show. Watch for her standing by her quilt and answering questions.



"Guardian Spirits" As I said before, " look at that depth and dimension, Wow!".



Laurie Lile was in my Asilomar 5 day workshop last April. This is her reference photo. We worked to improve the composition by adding more interest in the foreground, increasing the contrast in a variety of shapes (including that geometric pieced sky) and in the mid ground layers of fields.

Notice how the shapes vary in size and regularity...the odder the shape the more interesting! Notice how one shape interlocks with another.

Nice warm and cool colors now. Great light and dark areas. They raise cattle so that enhanced the story line of the quilt. I have encouraged Laurie to enter it into shows. It's awesome!



Darleen Jordan cruised with me and had a great time with our fabric paint crayons. Here is her new Fall project. A

friend said, "I didn't know you could buy chicken feathers paint." Look at the turkey in the top right corner. See what a big difference the paint crayons and a bit of shading made in that turkey. They are so easy to use. If you don't have a set and want to know more click below -

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

My new quilt "Language of Flowers".

AQS and I have signed a contract for them to publish my new "Language of Flowers" quilt as a block of the month. They have the entire manuscript and I am waiting to be assigned a graphics designer who will pull the pattern together. Then I get the "proof". When that is OKed it is off to the printer. When it is released, I buy the pattern back from AQS at their wholesale price and will let you all know in the newsletter that we have them in stock. This project was inspired by my love of the Victorian period. When emotions were not to be indulged in, and certainly not spoken of, the language of flowers became a way to express your sentiments. Each flower was given a meaning. Delivering "Tussie Mussie" bouquets conveyed your sentiments to the receiver. After a year and a half of research and design time, each block was designed with a sentiment in mind. There are 380 quarter inch buttons hand sewn around the scalloped border. *Please respect the copyright on this though. Click below*

[Language of Flowers blocks and meanings - If you want to know more about each block.](#)



Our Ophelia or 'Song of the Sea' won another Best Original Design award at the AQS Chattanooga show! She has also been purchased by an international art collector who was dragged to the Show in Chattanooga by a friend. She had no idea what awaited her in the new world of contemporary quilting. 'Song of the Sea' sold for \$11,000. The client was also incredibly gracious as it has already been entered in 3 more shows and will not be available to go home to her until May.

The Quilt show with Ricky Tims and Alex Anderson called. They have used my quilts as Zoom quilts but I have never been a guest before. Pretty darn exciting and scary. I have prepared two brand new teaching segments for them.

The taping is October 8th in the morning. If you live in the Denver area, get free tickets and come. I am giving away 12 free Apliquick kits. Plus I would love to see your friendly faces out there.

Apliquick: This method is really sweeping the world.

I get about two orders a day for Apliquick supplies. This month we got orders from:

Columbia, Denmark, Australia, Panama, U.K, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and Canada along with many for the United States. If you have not tried or heard about this new simple method of turning your edges, watch the following free video. We are a USA distributor for this great product from Spain. I could not have made Language of Flowers in the time I did without this system. The interfacing stays in and gives a lovely additional loft to each flower petal or pictorial object. It's washable and so light and soft. I will be teaching this method at Appliqué Academy next February and at The Appliqué Society Retreat next spring.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B4kh1L_dbg for the free video

<http://www.kathyduniganappliqueacademy.com> link to the Appliqué Academy

We leave on Monday for me to judge and teach at the AQS Des Moines show. If I find any cool new gadgets I will let you all know next time. Then it's off to meet Ricky and Alex (pray that I don't fall on my face). The very next week we will be flying to Toronto to teach for the York Heritage Guild. It's busy, crazy, fun - and a life I am grateful for every single day. Have a great fall and drop a line now and then. You know I always get back to you.

Hugs Kathy

www.kathymcneilquilts.com