

“California Here We Come,” SCQR 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt Store Challenge

Monica’s Quilt and Bead Creations, Anniversary Year #8

Quilt name: “Sunset in the Coachella Valley”

Original design by Sharon Picciolo.

### Artist’s Statement

I received a call from Monica Gonzales, owner of Monica’s Quilt and Bead Creations, asking me if I would be interested in designing and sewing the quilt top for this competition. This was truly a group project. Monica chose the fabrics and orchestrated the project. It was beautifully quilted by Hester Mastro, who brought the images to life. For the finishing touches, embellishments were added to the foreground by beading artist, Rose Mary Jameson.

Monica used themes from the anniversary year #8 as her inspiration: Gifts, pottery (traditional) and linen (modern;) gemstone, tourmaline; color, bronze. Beginning with Hoffman’s *Kona Cotton #857*, a requirement of the contest for her chosen year (#8) she began to choose coordinating fabrics. Natural tourmalines come in every color of the rainbow which allowed her to work with a full pallet. When I saw her choices, I became very excited about the project because I knew that we could illustrate the vivid sunsets of our beautiful location in California’s Coachella Valley.

I used her bronze colored fabrics along with some bright coral colors to showcase our breathtaking evening sky. I used 5” squares for a blocks-on-point background.

I was inspired by Point Happy in La Quinta as I designed the mountains. They reflect the deep purples fading to lavender often found in tourmalines. This was done as an applique sewn over the sky.

Lake Cahuilla inspired me to create a sparkling turquoise lake. I used strip quilting in 2” strips for the lake and to create the brick wall which separates the foreground from the background.

The modern gift of linen is reflected in the fabric used for the sand in both the background and foreground. Also, the irregular texture of linen is showcased in Moda’s *Grunge* fabrics used throughout the quilt.

Using the bronze and tourmaline colors, I truly enjoyed designing the pottery, the traditional theme required by our parameters. The Coachella Valley is rich in Native American art and pottery. I tried to introduce some of these designs in the applique that decorates the pottery.

The bright greens found in tourmalines were used in the cactus and palm trees.

Lastly, we needed to use the #857 *Kona Cotton*. I used it for the sunset glow reflected on the palm tree trunks because it has a somewhat iridescent shine to it.

I had so much fun making this quilt that I decided to write the pattern as I designed it. You can find the pattern as well as the fabrics for this quilt at Monica’s Quilt and Bead Creations in Palm Desert, California. ([monicasquiltandbead.com](http://monicasquiltandbead.com))

Thanks, Monica!

--Sharon Picciolo