

The Virtual Quilt

Issue 43

October 2000



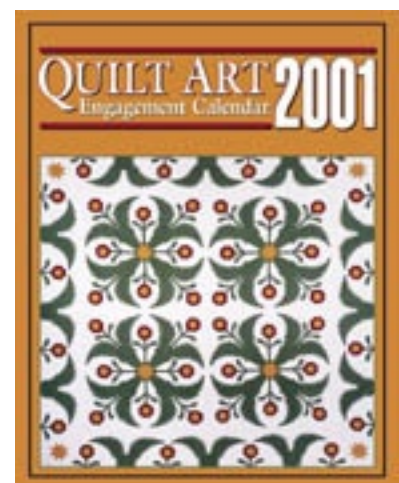
**Inside this
issue of *TVQ*:**

Two New Books on Quilt Design

**Christina Holland
reviews *Storm at Sea*
and
*Freestyle Quilts***

Also:

- **2001 Quilt Calendars are here!**
- **Traveling Quilters visit Tennessee & the Carolinas!**
- **A review of Glific, intriguing new design inspiration software!**



2001: A Calendar Odyssey

I always love the late-summer/fall release of the new quilt calendars from the publishers. There's something about the prospect of a new quilt each month to adorn your kitchen, sewing room, or office wall and the fresh feel of the paper (that new calendar smell!) and I suppose the unspoiled prospect of a new year that isn't here yet, but holds great promise.

And then there are the quilts!

This year's offering from Martingale's That Patchwork Place imprint is sure to charm the traditionalist. Selections from the company's quilter authors include

crazy quilting, applique, paper-pieced quilts, baby quilts, Celtic designs, and quick-method quilts, all of which are stunning. Jodie Davis, Carol Doak, Nancy Martin, Ursula Reikes and Georgia Bonesteel are among the contributors. The collection also has a dash of the exotic created by two selections from Kitty Pippin's *Quilting with Japanese Fabrics*, which bring Asian and American influences together in very creative ways.

Martingale has this year upgraded its packet of quilt patterns that come with the calendar. Instead of the individual sheets of black and white instructions, they now provide color diagrams in a stapled booklet at the back. The booklet must be disassembled to properly read the individual quilt instructions, which allows for greater portability of a pattern you may be using. The calendar also contains two pages of general instructions on a variety of quilting techniques, including rotary cutting, applique, machine piecing, foundation piecing, binding, etc. You could almost learn to quilt from this calendar alone -- instruction and inspiration all rolled into one!

C&T's annual offering is a 16-month calendar published by Avalanche, and is also a collection

of traditional quilts. The feel is a little bit different, though, with bolder colors and a little bit freer play of the imagination. Especially beautiful is Valori Wells' "Memories of My Mother's Garden," an impressionistic rendering of the bright flowers surrounded by the mountain scenery. My other favorite in this collection is the quilt for October, Sally Collins' miniature collection of stars called "Santa Fe." Patrick Lose, Freddy Moran, Alex Anderson and Judy Mathieson are all represented in this wonderful collection. A packet of black and white instruction sheets is included for 13 quilts, with good clear illustrations, step-by-step instructions, and some templates is included. C&T's calendar is a little different in that it includes holidays from a number of different quilting countries, including Japan.

Better Homes and Gardens' calendar displays its broader home décor background, as the quilts are displayed in the context of furniture, china, and accessories. This might not seem like the "purest" way to display quilts, but it's done with impeccable taste and shows the quilts in their domestic milieu. (Though it never looks like anybody really LIVES in these home décor photos, does it? No cat hair, no baby spit. Part of the appeal, I'm sure.)

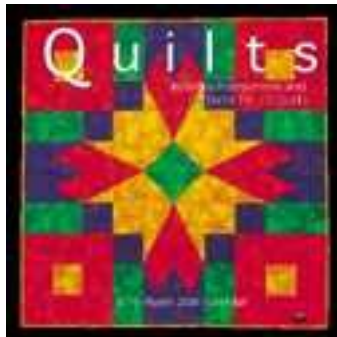


The quilts in this calendar are also traditional, using recognizable blocks and patterns, many of them in rustic colors. One of the most interesting is Jill Kemp's wallhanging, "Pomegranates," a lovely applique repeat of stylized fruit in rich browns, greens, and purples! Joy Hoffman's June selection, "Hook, Line, and Sinker," is also inviting, with its rendering of triangle goldfish on a blue background. BH&G also offers a second, thumbnail photo of each quilt in a different colorway.

The instruction and pattern booklet that comes in this calendar is like a little magazine, on

glossy paper and in full color. It contains brief biographical blurbs and photos of the designers, good instructions for the quilts, templates where appropriate, and the "Quilter's Schoolhouse," a primer in quilt-making techniques.

If your quilt habit requires that you have a new fix weekly rather than just once a month, you'll want to take a look at American Quilter's Society's very nice Quilt Art 2001 Engagement Calendar. This



spiral-bound 7" X 9" 112-page paperbound book is broken out a week at a time with a quilt on the left and space for calendar entries on the right. The quilts offered are in a wide variety of styles

and each is accompanied by a title, artist's name, and a brief description or point of interest about the quilt. As with all of these calendars, quilt themes are placed in the appropriate season. One of my favorites in the AQS engagement calendar is for the week of July 4, a wonderful melding of the flag and a woman's face by Dory Sandon.

This year's crop of quilt calendars will keep you on top of your appointments as well as providing pleasure to the eye and heart for the coming year. The make great Christmas gifts for your quilting friends as well!

All of the wall calendars above are available at a discount in the Planet Patchwork store at <http://www.planetpatchwork.com/store/dept.asp?dept%5Fid=1500>

You can get the engagement calendar direct from AQS at <http://www.aqsquilt.com>



BREAKING TRADITIONS

Cathedral Windows Quick Method Quilt

This book will instruct even the novice sewer how to create an heirloom quality quilt, entirely by sewing machine, in a fraction of the time it would take to sew by hand. Full color cover, clear concise illustrations, yardage charts and many tips.

The possibilities are endless!

\$8.95 per book plus \$1.95 s&h Please make check payable to 'Kimberly Nappier' and mail to:

Kimberly Nappier
6827 Sparkman St. Dept. tvq
Tampa, FL 33616

E-mail inquiries to: Bountipres@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/bountipres/>

HEARTLAND QUILTWORKS

Heartland Quiltworks asks:

- Are you tired of basting your quilts?
- Would you like a space friendly quilting frame?
- Would you like to quilt and still be in the same room with your family?
- Does quilting aggravate your neck and shoulders or bother your carpal tunnel syndrome?
- Would your like to be able to put a quilt in the frame by yourself?
- If your answer was yes to any of these questions--

The Heartland Quilting Frame is the only frame you will ever need!

Call or write for more information
Heartland Quiltworks 100 Cherry St.
Cherokee, OK 73728 1-800-441-8112
www.heartlandquiltworks.com

I must admit to being an art klutz. Words I can deal with, but graphic design has always been beyond me. I guess I'm too left-brained, or something was left out of my brain, for as much as I love art (and quilts in particular), if you put a pencil or a crayon or a chunk of charcoal in my

per, fabric, and ornamental tile. The same kinds of patterns, of course, that you often find in quilts.

I guess the best way to define what Gliftic is would be first to tell you what it's not. It's not a drawing program. You won't find any tools to make polygons, lines, or curves. It's not a quilt block generating program, or a quilt layout program. It's also not a photo manipulation program (Ransen publishes one of those, known as Repligator). So what is it? Well, I guess you would basically have to say it's a visual inspiration program.

How do you get inspired? Click your mouse



SOFTWARE REVIEW:

GLIFTIC

An Abstract Image Generator

on a lightning bolt, or press F-7. When you do so, the program automatically generates an image that displays itself in a square on the screen. You have no idea what this image will be -- it may be a scattering of leaf-like objects, it may be a curling mass of ribbons, a paisley print, or a seething mass of snake-like objects.

The first thing I did with it is just keep clicking on the lightning bolt to see what kinds of things it would create, and there seemed to be no end to the variety.

During a session, the program saves all the images you have summoned up, and will happily display them as thumbnails when you click on the "Thumb" button on the top icon bar. The only limit to this is the amount of memory in your computer, and it gives you the opportunity to go back and pick an image that interests you out of

hand, I haven't the faintest idea what to do with it. And it's worse if I think I know what to do with it and actually touch it to something that will record a mark. Computers haven't helped, because you still have to have a clue what to do with the mouse. Have you ever tried to draw with a mouse?

Enter Gliftic, a shareware program that generates a wide variety of patterns and images with the click of a mouse. The program, written and marketed by Owen Ransen, is based on the kinds of repetitive, abstract patterns you find in wallpa-

Quiltchannel needs you!
Submit your favorite web site to
www.quiltchannel.com today!

the many you have created.

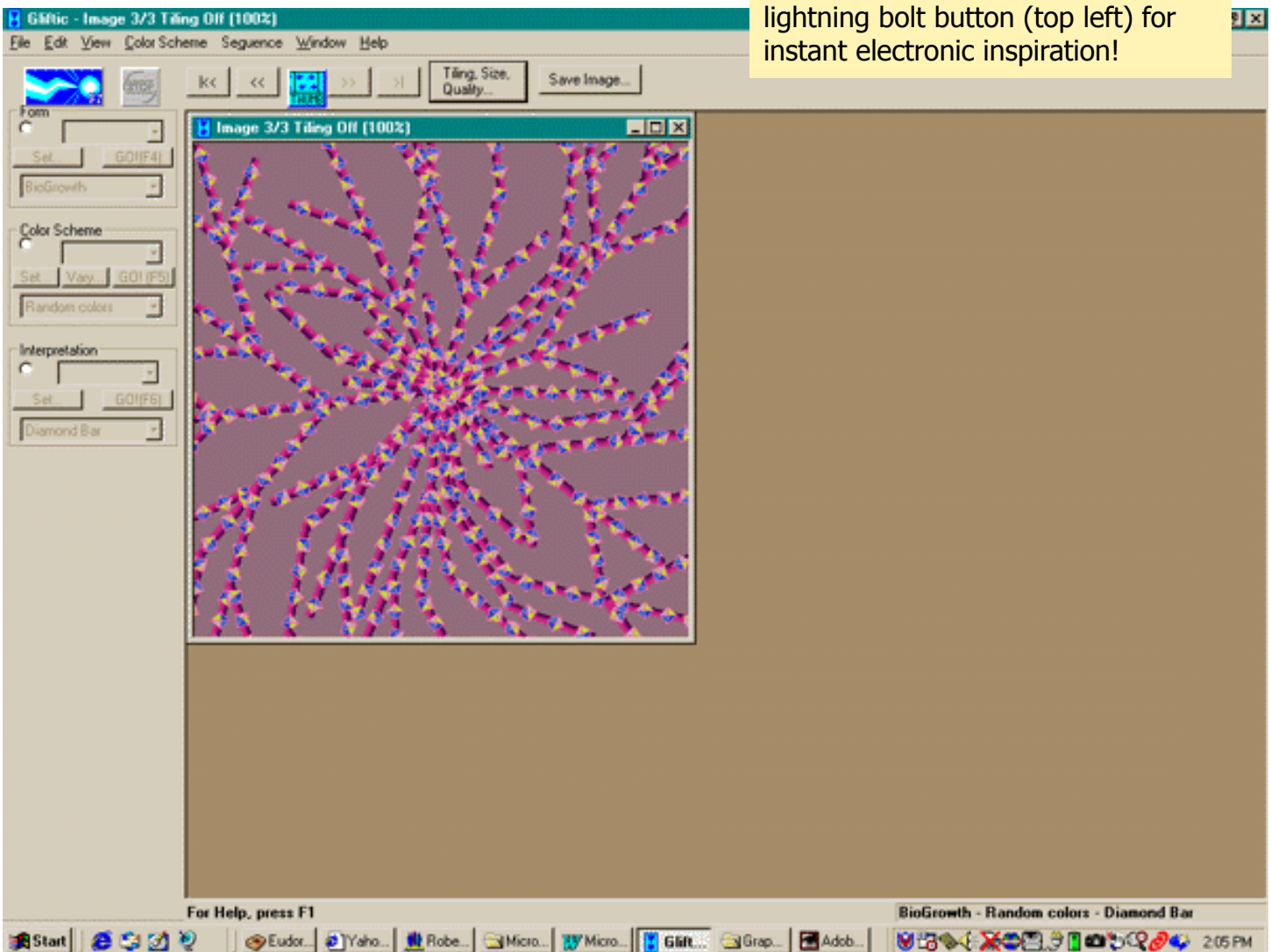
Once you get bored with just creating new designs, you can experiment with the other major variables built into the program, known as Form, Color Scheme, and Interpretation. Form allows you to experiment with different spatial arrangements of the basic shape you are working with, color scheme allows you to play with color, and interpretation takes the basic spatial arrangement and puts different shapes in it. You can experiment with each of the different features of an image in a completely random way, or you can use dropdown lists of colors, shapes, and arrangements.

Describing all of this doesn't really do it justice, because the experience of the program is ultimately a visual one, and the only way to see what it can do is to experiment with it. This is easy to do, since the program is shareware, and fully functional in its shareware form. Its only impair-

ment is that it displays a shareware notice on each image, effectively rendering them unusable for anything but experimentation.

The program's terminology and features take a little getting used to, but a beginner's introduction to it is eased by what Ransen calls a "60-second Tutorial" that is available in the Help menu. Once you get into it a little deeper, you begin to see that the program is more than a random device -- that almost all of its aspects can be customized and adjusted by the user. Each shape, interpretation, and color scheme can be personalized through selection boxes. Color schemes can be added through the import of jpg images or any image using the Windows clipboard. Other image aspects can be changed by adjusting slider bars -- though it takes a good bit of knowledge of imagery to know exactly what you're doing.

The main Gliftic screen. Click the lightning bolt button (top left) for instant electronic inspiration!



Like many personal shareware efforts, Gliftic has a playful feel as Ransen lets his sense of humor and personality show to the user, especially through the daily tips. Inane quotes from Chinese leaders and other amusing observations and "useless information" leaven the mix. The internal wizard of the program, which generates the random images, is named "Randy," in case you wanted to know.

What is this program good for? The images can be saved as jpgs and used as backgrounds or illustrations on websites. The program's tiling function allows you to view a full screen of



The only way to see what Gliftic can do is to experiment with it.

tilled images to see how it will look. You can, of course, further refine and manipulate any Gliftic image using Photoshop or other graphics programs. The images can also be used as buttons, borders, or other graphical designs. And, if you're looking for a way to break out in your quilting, the program can prime your creative pump with literally millions of design ideas!

Download the shareware version of Gliftic from Planet Patchwork: <http://planetpatchwork.com/glifdown.htm>



NEW ENGLAND FABRIC LOFT

WE NOW CARRY AURIFIL COTTON THREAD!

Home of the wide width fabrics. Specializing in one piece quilt backings. All fabrics are 90" to 120" wide, 100% cotton.

Imagine no more seams on the back of your quilt! End the frustration of piecing your quilt back. Make that large tablecloth you need for Holiday dinners.

We are now the Distributor in US for "Aurifil" mako cotton thread. Made in Italy with the best Egyptian cotton. Three different weights. Made for machine embroidery, quilting, and all of your sewing needs. 154 colors (9 are variegated), high sheen and reliable strength, and colorfast. The 50 wt is the most common for quilting and most sewing needs. 50 wt has 1422 yards on it's spool for \$6.25! See website for colors available and more information on other new products.

Come and visit our website.

<http://www.fabricloft.com>

Secure online ordering. Samples available

CHECK OUT AND COMPARE OUR LOW PRICES WHERE YOUR MONEY BUYS MORE FOR LESS!

Looking into Quilting Software?

Look no further than The Quilt Software Network

<http://www.quiltsoftware.net/>

Reviews, advice, and demos of the latest quilting software. Find out what's right for you!

The Traveling Quilter:

Nashville, Asheville and Beyond

**The American Quilters' Society Show
Nashville, Tennessee
August 31 - September 2, 2000**

By Sehoy Welshofer

Finally the day had come for the AQS Show in Nashville. Living in the area, we were well aware of things reaching a fever pitch. Guild members were enlisted to help hang the quilts, and to do the white glove bit. Even though we live only 15 minutes north of Opryland, we still rode the shuttle every day. How nice it was not to deal with



Wandering the aisles of the American Quilters' Society Show.

the traffic and the parking. We were dropped off at the main entrance to the show, and we could return when we were all shopped out for the day; and all of this for a \$2.00 round trip. What a bargain.

Entering the show, you really felt it was necessary to have a plan. We opted to do the quilts first, and I'm glad we did. I was absolutely in awe of some of the workmanship displayed. The grand prizewinner, Victorian Innocence, made by Jane Holihan, was lovely. Wondering if anyone has the statistics on how many applique quilts have been grand prizewinners; something to ponder.

One of the top 5 winners looked like Mardi

gras dancers. Titled "Muses for a Millennium," this was an original design - machine pieced, appliqued, embroidered and quilted. There were quite a few Japanese quilts entered in the show, and some really beautifully workmanship. Some of these quilts were group endeavors - for instance, 15 Japanese quilters made Grievance of the Amish. One thing I noticed about these quilts was a similarity in the fabrics of a number of them. Almost as if quilters purchased similar fabrics for a group challenge, and the winners submitted quilts to the AQS Show. Rumor had it that the Japanese quilters began working on their quilts 3 years ago.

One of the Japanese quilts, "The Change of Times," made by Keiko Yoshida, just amazed me. The left hand side of the quilt was an applique flower in peaches, blues and pinks, with assorted greens for

leaves. But down the center of the quilt was the illusion of a fold, complete with "creases" in the quilt, and the back of the quilt showing at the bottom. On the right hand

side was a negative of the left side. Absolutely amazing work. And then all around what the maker calls the hem of the quilt, was a border made up of what looked like photo slides. The quilt was hand appliqued and quilted.

So looking at the quilts took the better part of the first morning. And then we started shopping! It was obvious that we were not going to do the vendors in one day, since there were over 300 booths. So we took our time and stopped to watch demos of new methods and the latest in quilting tools. My very first purchase was a long roll of tissue-like paper to use for free

continued 2nd page following

SCHOOLHOUSE ENTERPRISES

Amazing but true!

Gridded Geese(c) is a unique paper foundation method for mass-producing Flying Geese units up to 24 at once (no kidding!). Schoolhouse Enterprises, inventors and manufacturers of this revolutionary product, offers both a printed version of their catalog, and an on-line (<http://www.planetpatchwork.com/store/>) shopping cart service in conjunction with Planet Patchwork. You can safely order online through Planet Patchwork's secure server with your credit card!



The folks at Schoolhouse Enterprises and Planet Patchwork search for items for quilters (and friends of quilters) which are unique and often overlooked by other catalogs you might connect with. Check out their on-line catalog, which offers such interesting items as Photos-to-Fabric(tm) photo transfer paper, Ott Lights, beautiful embossed note cards, kaleidoscope pendants, and much more! And while you're visiting, be sure to check out the current Monthly Special!!

Schoolhouse carries the complete line of Electric Quilt products, including EQ4 design software, and Sew Precise! and Sew Precise with Shirley Liby. We also carry the popular Quilt-Pro program. We offer the best prices on quilt design software you'll find anywhere, guaranteed. EQ4 is only \$86.88 and Quilt-Pro is an unbelievable \$76.88! We also offer some great package deals for even bigger savings. If you find a lower advertised price, we'll match it and give you another 5% discount.

If you're having trouble deciding which program is best for you, call our toll-free **Quilt Software Hotline at 877-558-3660**.

We also offer a large selection of INSPECTOR CLUESEW's Mystery Quilts. If you missed any of the Cases which were previously online, you'll find them here!

If you're not able to access the web page, just e-mail Schoolhouse Enterprises (<mailto:inspectr@delanet.com>) with your "snail mail" (post office) address for your FREE CATALOG and Sample of Gridded Geese(c)! (Sorry, but Samples are only available in the printed catalogs.)

DREAMHORSE WORKSHOP

18" pillows for sale: free-form patchwork bordered by canvas duck on front and backed with burlap (\$50), or patches of traditional knit or crochet patterns in off-white cotton yarn bordered and backed with upholstery fabric in natural shades (\$75). All covers removable and should be drycleaned. Include \$7 for shipping and handling. lindag@inreach.com for questions. (530) 675-2899. Linda Gyulassy at P.O. Box 42, Brownsville, CA 95919.

motion quilting - unfortunately, it acted as a battering ram for the remainder of the day; definitely should have left that purchase for the end of the day! We saw Lynn Grave's new Setting Tool and got a demo, and saw our first Ragtime Quilt and had to buy the pattern. The Design-A-Quilt people from Murray, KY were at the

2000. No flashes were allowed here! This is also where The Supper quilt was displayed, made by a retired dentist, Don Locke. Unbelievable as it may seem, it contains 51,816 half-inch squares and more than 350 different fabrics.

It was such a pleasure to be able to go to a quilt show held in the proper setting. This show was set up in a manner similar to the Houston show, but not nearly as large. But like Houston, the Opryland setting provided wide aisles for both vendors and quilts. We could move around, visit vendors, and see the quilts without pushing and shoving. Hopefully someday Paducah will



The booth of Legacy Quilts, Kokomo, Indiana, quilt broker Xenia Cord.

have a better facility for a quilt show. Opryland provided reasonably priced food and quick moving lunch lines. And if you got tired of walking, you could always find a comfortable place to sit and rest your aching feet. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the show. Maybe in a couple of years they'll try it again.

show demonstrating their FreeHander machine - very interesting if you're quilting large quilts but aren't in the market for the long arm machine.

A second day was necessary - more shopping! But first, we stopped to see Century of Quilts, the exhibit of quilts from every decade, 1900 -

continued next page

GREENHAVEN

Greenhaven, a bed and breakfast retreat especially for Quilters, on the Olympic Peninsula.

Visit Washington State and stay with a quilter, and her cat Oliver.

The Herbolds live just outside of Sunny Sequim. Their home, set in the tall trees, is warm, pleasant, and affordable.

Norma can direct you to quilt shops in the area, plus the natural wonders located on the Olympic Peninsula. For those in the Northwest, Norma can also plan a personal retreat for you and your quilting friends.

You are invited to visit the website for Greenhaven, where you can check out Norma's quilts, learn more about Sequim, and of course, see Oliver. The address is: <http://www.olypen.com/normah>

You may email Norma at normah@olypen.com or call 360-681-0364 for more information.

Sehoy Welshofer publishes the website “Web Threads” at <http://www.welshofer.com/WebThreads/> with help from her family. A former math teacher, she now quilts and teaches quilting in quilt shops in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Asheville, NC Annual Quilt Show and York County, SC Museum

By Lynn Holland

We have long been aware of the strong crafts tradition which exists in the Carolinas, particularly in the Asheville, NC area. After all, this is the homeplace of lap quilting and the famous Georgia Bonesteel! Additionally, we had visited Southern Highland Craft Guild’s Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway several times and had always marvelled at the wonderful quilts hung all around the second story of the center. So we were particularly enthusiastic when we saw the notice for the Asheville Quilt competition held late last summer at the North Carolina Arboretum.

Not every quilt guild has access to the stunning setting that the Arboretum affords. A gorgeous quilted banner in purple and white with a star design heralded the event, and a long, tree-lined entry road led us to the parking lot. The parking lot itself offered some signs that this was serious quilt territory, with cars bearing QUILTER and QLT/GLF as vanity license tags. We became further convinced that people take their quilting seriously when, hiking past the outdoor sculptures to the entrance, we heard someone lament, “It’s my bindings. I’ll never win an award because of my bindings.” Several school and charitable organizations had set up cold drink and bake sale tables on the front porch, just in case refreshment was needed.

The inside was as stunning as the setting. This year’s theme was Diamonds in the Garden, and the selections were definite jewels.

There was a solid schedule of demonstrations each day (the show ran from Friday through Sunday) and we were lucky enough to arrive just in time for Georgia Bonesteel’s: “Country

to Country “ presentation, even though we were in the back of the standing-room-only crowd. I have to admit I am somewhat star-struck in the presence of great quilters. (I remember vividly standing in the line for the ladies room at Houston directly behind Roberta Horton and Mary Mashuta. What a thrill!) So you can imagine my delight at arriving just in time to see Georgia. She was discussing and showing pictures of her latest trip through Germany and Switzerland, and brought her most recent project with her, even though it wasn’t completed. I wonder how many people felt better to know that famous



Above:
No doubt about this person’s priorities!

Below: This one couldn’t decide, though. Or perhaps it’s him and her.



people have works in progress, too?

A quick look around told me that this crowd at this show was somewhat different from the trends I have seen lately: not as many men as usual, a higher percentage of senior citizens, and lots of *very* well-behaved children. Other guilds

through it by their mom who couldn't get a sitter.

Crowd gatherer of the show: "Profiles and Times of Sunbonnet Sue" by Linda Cantrell, who chronicles Sue's progress from shotgun wedding to big lottery win with many humorous events in between. This quilt is so full of clever details that there was a viewer's guide attached to the display so that people wouldn't miss any of the subtleties.

In general, there were more traditional styles than

not, but many of them offered fresh interpretations of the old favorites. This is obviously a guild with lots of talent among its members, and the

offerings at this show reflected that.

I recently visited another show in the same area of the Carolinas, this time in York County, South Caro-

lina. York County is just south of Charlotte, and is the home of Brattonsville, which recently found fame as the setting of the movie *The Patriot*. I had not really planned to visit the museum, since I had seen the quilts from Quilt National '99 before, but at the last minute decided to stop in on my way out of town. And was I glad I did! In addition to the Quilt National '99 collection was a

The number of vendors was limited, but they had some nice stuff!



take note: Some genius in the Asheville guild came up with the idea of a scavenger hunt and produced a page-long list of questions that could only be answered by carefully scrutinizing the quilts on display. Prizes were given to those who answered all the questions, so many children were eagerly matching their questions to the images in the quilts. Consequently they actually enjoyed a quilt show instead of being dragged

THE QUILT BLOCK

We are a cottage industry located just outside of Yosemite National Park. We specialize in clothing and patterns for quilters and for people who love quilts.

We offer t-shirts and sweatshirts in sizes from medium to xxx-large. All of our quilts are machine pieced. Most of our patterns are easy enough for beginning quilters. Come see what we have to offer at our website. We have a great sale page, and we now offer secure online shopping!

<http://www.sierratel.com/thequiltblock/salepage1.htm>

Or e-mail for more information to <mailto:gastinc@sierratel.com>

The Quilt Block P.O. Box 127 Midpines, CA 95345

(209) 742-5418 Fax: (209) 742-7662

regional showing of quilts entitled "Breaking Tradition." A sign at the front of the small gallery warns "These are not like quilts on your bed at home."

There were 18 quilts in all, each and every one fresh and intriguing. I especially loved one which looked like an aquarium - it was under glass and was sort of a shadow box affair filled with fish and ferns. Then there was Whole Lotta Elvis 2000, a Mexican shrine-like crazy quilt by Sandra Rowland, featuring a beaded Elvis head, buttons, trinkets and other stuff in homage to the singer. Then there was Blessing for Florida City, dedicated to the undocumented dead migrant workers who died during Hurricane Andrew, with its charm like figures draped from a stick. Using silk organza, feathers and fleece from recycled bottles, Ellen Kochansy fashioned her imaginative Feathers 2000.

This was a truly unexpected WOW showing. I have no idea if it is traveling the Carolinas currently, but if it isn't, it should be. The museum didn't have a catalog available, but they sure

should consider it. I wasn't expecting to review this exhibit when I dropped in, so my notes were taken with a dull pencil on the museum's flyer of summer activities for children, and I didn't have a camera.

The notes I did take were just to be sure I didn't forget to tell my family about my favorite works.

The North Carolina Arboretum, in the southern part of Asheville, makes a stunning venue for a quilt show.



So I've left out names of some of the artists and probably misspelled others. Feel free to e-mail me with corrections and I'll be sure to make them. And if anyone knows if this show is a traveling one, please let TVQ know -- we'd like to see it again.



MY FAVORITE THIMBLE

GREAT NEWS - The My Favorite Thimble RE-COATING KIT is now available.

If you have been pleased with My Favorite Thimble but wish the rubber coating would last longer, we now have a solution. Each Kit contains enough material to repair your thimble approximately 10 times. It's quick and easy, and you could even use the Kit to add a rubber coating to any brand of metal thimble.

Visit our web site at www.myfavoritethimble.com for details and receive a FREE gift with any order. This month the gift is a sample pack of My Favorite Fabrics Note Cards.

This offer is being made only to TVQ subscribers, so be sure to mention TVQ in the Special Instructions box on our Order Form.

Chris Hanner & Company 3687 Coldwater Lane Snellville, GA 30039v

<http://www.myfavoritethimble.com/>

Email: hanner@mindspring.com



Book Review

Two New Books on Quilt Design

By Christina Holland

Starting with a single quilt block as a design element can lead one in many different directions. That is the premise of the annual “New Quilts from Old Favorites” contest of the Museum of the American Quilter’s Society (MAQS), and the premise in turn of “Storm at Sea.”



Storm at Sea: New Quilts from an Old Favorite
Barbara Smith, ed.
American Quilter’s Society, 2000
95 pages
MSRP: \$19.95

The quilts highlighted here are the winning and finalist quilts for the year 2000 contest, featuring the Storm at Sea block. The storm at sea block begins with a double square within a square, surrounded by diamond, and uses a combination of squares, triangles, and diamonds to provide an illusion of curves and of flow from one block to the next. As the quilts in this book show, it is a very versatile block.

This is not a pattern book, or even a how-to design book. It functions best as a source of inspiration. The first half of the book devotes two pages to each of eighteen quilts: a full-page color photograph on the left-hand side, and on the

facing page the artists’ own words about their quilting and that particular quilt. The latter half of the book includes templates for the basic Storm at Sea block, some discus-

sion of design, and some, but definitely not all, of the patterns required for replicating these quilts.

There is plenty of inspiration available here. The quilts, revolving about a single block, are as different as can be. Simply choosing a color arrangement determines whether one’s eye focuses on the overlapping circle effect, as in Nancy Lambert’s “Patterns II” (pages 20-21) or on the eight pointed star

continued on 2nd page following

THE CRAFT CONNECTION

The Craft Connection (<http://www.craftconn.com/>) is the most exciting place on the Internet if you want to make or sell handcrafts. We sell quality cotton fabric, Mettler and Sulky thread, and quilting notions, all at a discount. Fabrics are linked to coordinating fabrics, so you know your choices will look great together. We try to find fabrics you won’t see anywhere else. And we’ll package them into packets of fat eighths, fat quarters, or 5” squares, so you can get a good variety without a big cash outlay. Among our fabric categories are florals, pictorials, and guy stuff, and you should see the new Lost Fabrics of Atlantis collection.

Every month some items are for sale at 20 percent off our already discounted prices. You can use your credit card online on our secure server to safely purchase our fabrics and also our crafters’ products. If you’re a crafter, you can sell here and take credit cards without having your own credit card vendor account.

Check out our Free Stuff. Each month we offer a new pattern and a new lesson. We also have a Calendar of upcoming Quilt Shows. Come by our website at <http://www.craftconn.com>.

SEAGULL QUILTS

72 ELMWOOD AVENUE
EAST AURORA, NY 14052

<http://users.aol.com/seagullq/seagullq.htm>

Quilt patterns include many lighthouses (North Carolina, Montauk, Barnegat, Buffalo, West Quoddy, 30 Mile Point and miniature) nurse, teacher, musical instrument, Christmas paper pieced blocks, holly wreath, starry snowman, paper-pieced borders, miniature star and pinwheel. See web page for pictures. Patterns \$6.75 ppd.

THE SEAGULL QUILTS TRADING NEWS (FOR QUILT BLOCK & CHARM EXCHANGE)
Quarterly newsletter for quilters who wish to exchange quality, 100% cotton fabric and finished blocks with other quilters. Send LSASE for sample issue.

Planet Patchwork

<http://www.planetpatchwork.com/>

Home of The Virtual Quilt, The Traveling
Quilter, and so much more!

SILVER DOLLAR SHEEP STATION

What is small, soft, and furry and kind to your sewing machine and serger?

The **MINI DUST-IT!** Genuine sheepskin duster on a 6" stick that is perfect for picking up dust and lint from your sewing machine and serger. Soft, beautiful sheepskin won't scratch polished surfaces. Picks up the lint and tiny threads; doesn't spread them around. Prevents lint build-up. Fun and handy to use. Also works great on the computer.

ANNOUNCING: New colors -- white, black, navy, gold, cocoa, taupe, teal blue, gray, charcoal.

Price: \$3.50 each INCLUDING mailing.

To order send check to:

Silver Dollar Sheep Station 5020 Winding Way Sacramento, CA 95841. Or call 800-887-8742. Or E-mail: Sheep50@aol.com.

Because we manufacture the Mini Dust-it to a very high standard, we currently have a good supply of imperfections. They may be thinner and not as pretty or have some other defect, but they still work great!

And best of all we offer these to you for just \$1, INCLUDING postage. HOWEVER, minimum order is three (no maximum). You can order them at the address above and enjoy this wonderful product at a bargain price!

Wholesale information available.

formed where four blocks meet, as in Lois Wilson's "Lost in the Stars" (pages 44-45). The differences go much further, though. In some, the theme block is used as a frame for a single anchoring image, from the nautical ("Against the Wind", pages 16-17; "Ode to the Wind and Waves", pages 18-19; "Whale of a Storm", pages 32-33) to the topical ("Kosovo - A World in Flames", pages 34-35).

Many of the quilts stretch and distort the basic block to create interesting effects. I think the most striking example of this is in "Storm at ... Gulp ... Seasick" (pages 40-41), by Judy Sogn. The jarring shifts in direction, the color choices, and the wavy lines of quilting all cooperate to produce a definite impression, and the artist clearly had fun making this quilt. In "Tumbling Seas" (pages 42-43), Claire Anne Teagan also rotated sheared Storm at Sea blocks, into giant diamonds to create a dynamic six pointed star and hexagon combination. Not surprisingly, a computer program aided her in her design, but low-tech methods also had a role to play: "I carried the original drawing and a box of crayons for several days before deciding on the colors. I tried different coloring ideas while waiting for my kids at school. My daughter even colored a few for me."



Free-Style Quilts:
A "No Rules" Approach
Susan Carlson
C&T Publishing, 2000
96 pages
MSRP: \$23.95

The next book, as the title suggests, takes a very different approach to quilt design. "Storm at Sea" was all about taking one geometric block and adapting it for different looks, really a fairly structured process. Even with those constraints, the artists were able to express themselves each in their own way. "Free-Style Quilts" opens the door still wider, encouraging the reader / student to disregard some of the most basic rules of quilting.

There are no seam allowances to be calculated. Glue is allowed to touch fabric. And, we are free to roam the entire fabric store to find the perfect quilt ingredient, not just the 100% cotton section.

In this book, Susan Carlson shares the art of fabric collage with us. In the first chapter, she describes her own introduction into the world of quilting. "I feel lucky to have approached quilting without having taken a beginning quilting class. When I did learn the 'rules,' I felt secure enough

to follow the ones that worked for me, and to bend or break others." This freedom from rules, she says, is the important thing: "The permission to play and the encouragement to explore" are the qualities she hopes to pass on to students.

By its very nature, this is not a philosophy that tends to lead to books full of patterns to be copied and painstaking instructions. Yet, she seems to realize that most of us need at least a place to start. She describes her search for the right motif for teaching this technique to others, finally narrowing it down to fish (flowers were her second choice). So she has included three basic patterns for different types of fish, and chapter three steps the reader through the creation of one of these, from the selection of fabrics to the quilting, finishing, and even hanging. Color photographs galore grace these pages, providing details of the process and often, illustrating some of the choices with which one may be faced.

Chapter five takes the reader through a more complicated piece, from the initial collection of underwater photographs containing some of the desired design elements to the final work. In all, eight photographs of the complete quilt, in various stages, are included, along with several close-up photographs of various sections. The author takes us step by step through the process, explaining the choices she made at various stages, the missteps, and the changes in direction.

The book also contains two separate color photograph galleries: first, the author's own quilts,



The author's works, like the one above, can intimidate readers, but a gallery of student projects is more reassuring.

and later, a collection of student works. Both are varied, interesting, and inspiring. Personally, I'm glad she decided to include both. Susan Carlson's work is amazing, especially the "Elements" (page 11 and page 32) and "Twilight" (pages 38-39). If it had only been her work, though, some readers (me) might have been left feeling a tad intimidated. Seeing the student work, much of it completed during a single one-day workshop, does much to offset one's fear. Right now, I'm trying to figure out how to clear time in my schedule, because I really want to try this.

Both books can be found at Amazon.com:

Storm at Sea:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1574327410/planetpatchworkA/>

Freestyle Quilts:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1571201025/planetpatchworkA/>



PINETREE QUILTWORKS, Ltd.

<http://www.quiltworks.com>

Thanks, quilters, for your continuing support of PineTree Quiltworks! Your support has enabled PineTree to expand the number of lines and designers, and the fabric department seems to grow by the day. Although not viewable yet, PineTree has made a commitment to carry all of the newest Hoffman batiks, which are starting to come in and will go on line as they are scanned. As in the past, PineTree stocks the entire Benartex Fossil Fern line and all of Patrick Lose marbles. Don't miss the ongoing fabric sale that features special items on a continuing basis -- we change or add fabrics to the sale frequently! Finally, the books department is being rebuilt, and it now contains more titles that should be easier to find.

Please be sure to check the "What's New" page (just click on the button on the front page of the catalog) when you visit PineTree Quiltworks, Ltd. at www.quiltworks.com ... and remember to make a bookmark!

PERFECT SQUARE

Make perfect half-square triangles like a pro with PERFECT SQUARE. Perfect Square is a REUSABLE iron-on transfer. Each sheet can be used at least 10 times, usually many more. For a sample, FREE pattern and complete brochure, please send \$3 to Monica Novini, 24111 Olivera Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

Patterns have been written especially for PERFECT SQUARE and the necessary sheets to make the quilt are included in the pattern.

The PERFECT SQUARE website has been updated to include information on all products and patterns complete with pictures. Credit cards are accepted.

Also included are pictures of Monica's art quilts and links to really cool quilt sites.

<http://www.perfectsquare.net>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, NEWS, IDEAS, BRICKBATS?

Like any news publication, TVQ is always hungry for information about new developments in the area we are trying to cover. If you have an idea for a story, or want to tell the world about something you are doing which relates to computers and quilting, we'd like to hear about it.

We'd like news of new classes starting up to teach quilt design on computers, or new approaches to that teaching. New products, maillists, World Wide Web pages, etc., are all fair game, and we'd appreciate any tips you can provide. Send your tips by e-mail to rholland@planetpatchwork.com.

If you have a comment about an article, a complaint or a correction, we're glad to hear that, too, and may publish some comments as letters to the editor. Again, these may be sent to rholland@planetpatchwork.com.



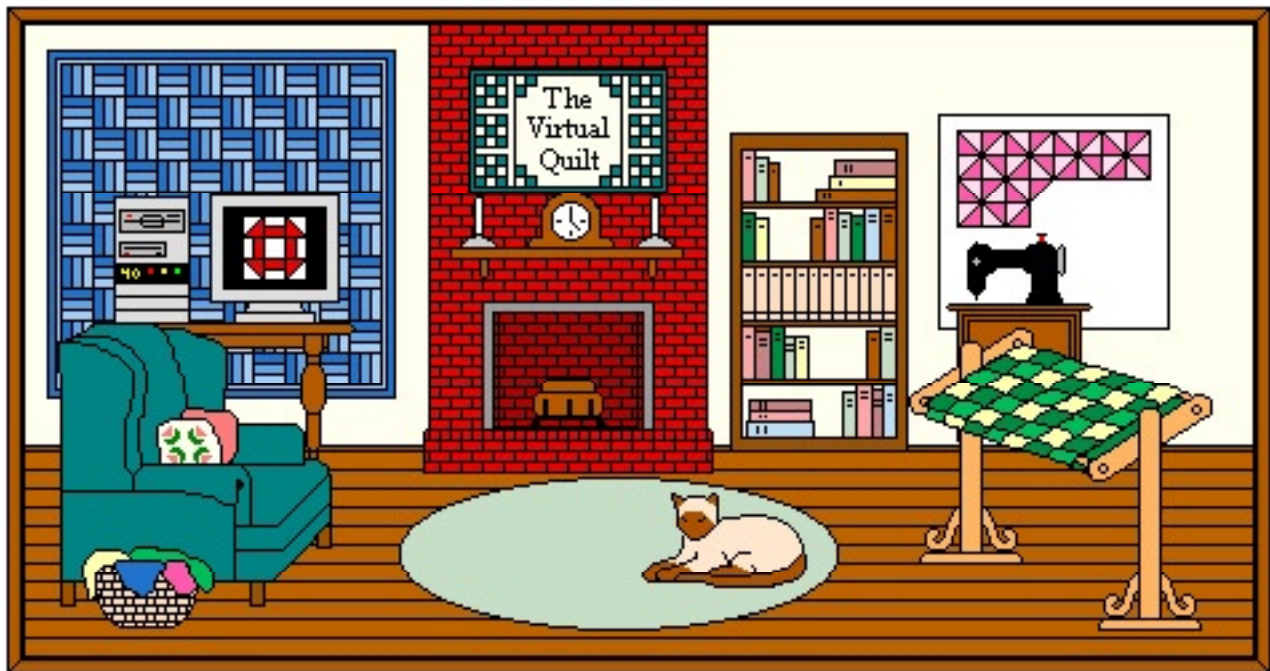
The Virtual Quilt

A Newsletter for
Computing Quilters

Editor and Publisher: Robert Holland, Decatur, GA

Copyright (c) 2000 by Robert Holland. All rights reserved. This file may not be reproduced in any form except to be printed out for the personal use of the subscriber without the expressed, written consent of the copyright holder.

Layout: C. Holland



HOW TO ADVERTISE IN TVQ

Our advertisers, both here in the newsletter and at the TVQ website, have found TVQ to be an effective and economical way to reach thousands of online quilters. Ads in the newsletter are only \$5 each (up to 100 words, inquire about longer ads) or 3 for \$10, and there are also attractive packages available which combine newsletter and website ads.

For more information e-mail rholland@planetpatchwork.com or visit <http://www.planetpatchwork.com/adcard.htm>. We specialize in helping small quilting-related businesses gain exposure on the internet.