

Martha Turner
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MarthaTurnerQuilts.com
Lincoln, NE and Borrego Springs, CA

Why I quilt

It all started with a tornado. We had recently moved to Tornado Alley. While I was contemplating the decorations to put over the head of our bed, the house was hit by a tornado. It was very exciting and I just as soon not do it again. The heavy picture frame that I was going to put over the head of the bed no longer seemed like a good idea. Someone suggested a quilted wall hanging, because if a quilt falls on you, it's no big deal. So I made my first quilted wall hanging and was hooked.



What I quilt

We travel a lot, and take photographs wherever we go. I then design quilts using the photographs as a starting point. I like to include the local shapes and colors, plants and animals that particularly impressed me in my quilts.

For the last three winters we have not been traveling internationally, but have spent our time hiking in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park in California. Practically every day I see something that I want to quilt. Since my fabric stash is small and my time is limited, I make small pictorial quilts. Some of the sites of interest that I have quilted include The Slot, Indian

Head Mountain, Palm Wash, The Wind Caves, the Pumpkin Patch, Ocotillo Flat, Galleta Meadows sculptures, and Rainbow Wash. Plants that have been included are the ocotillo, the century plant, the desert trumpet flower, cholla cactus, and other flowers typically found in the washes. Bighorn sheep, for which the park is named, and roadrunners have been featured in my quilts along with people out enjoying the desert.

How I quilt

I typically make rough tracings of the photographs, and then enlarge them. Sometimes I modify the drawing based on what features of the site are most interesting to me. Sometimes the available fabrics dictate changes to the original designs. My primary techniques are machine and fused appliqué, with machine quilting, although I also machine piece and hand appliqué fabric. I primarily use store-bought fabric, but do some fabric painting. I also occasionally embellish with ribbon, beads or yarn.

My Background

Education: math and environmental science, P.E.

Work: mathematical modeling, statistical analysis of environmental data

Travel: Peace Corps volunteer in India, visited all seven continents

Art: self taught

Exhibits:

Solo: McClelland Art Gallery, Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska

Juried Group:

SAQA Nebraska, Circles of Abstraction

SAQA SoCal/Arizona, Desert Diversity

Borrego Art Institute, Borrego Springs, California

East Cobb Quilters Guild, Marietta Georgia

AQS Quiltweek, Grand Rapids, Michigan

International Quilt Festival, Houston Texas

Non-juried group:

SAQA SoCal/AZ In all their beauty

Lincoln Modern Quilt Guild Art Quilt Show, Lincoln, NE

Lincoln Quilt Guild, Lincoln, Nebraska

Lancaster County Super Fair, Lincoln, Nebraska

Austin Area Quilt Guild Biennial Shows, Austin, Texas

The National Arts Program at Austin, Austin, Texas

Professional Affiliations:

Studio Art Quilt Associates

Borrego Art Institute

Borrego Springs Art Guild

Lincoln Quilt Guild

Lincoln Modern Quilt Guild