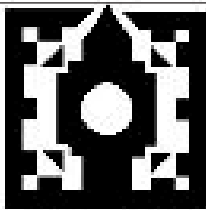

LONDON



QUILTERS

Autumn 2007 Newsletter

The Great Northern Quilt Show (with the Great Northern Needlecraft Show)

This three-day event is a different experience from the high powered excellence and challenge of the Festival of Quilts. You can see all the quilts and traders comfortably in one day and I imagine that most people leave feeling that they could make a quilt for next year. And possibly win a prize.

There were about 200 quilts ranging from bed quilts to miniature and wearable art. There were some remarkable applique quilts and traditional design pieced and embellished with embroidery. Contemporary quilts were sparsely represented in comparison. Hoffman and Makower UK had sponsored challenges and 20 quilters had risen to the occasion.

The winners from The Spring Quilt Festival in Exeter and The National Quilt Championships were displayed so you had the opportunity to see what was happening in other parts of the country. There is a new annual competition for a meter square quilt using 75% batik fabrics; this year the theme was 'Tropical Paradise', next year the theme is *Batik Flower Gardens.

Reynola Pakusich, an internationally acclaimed quilter from USA showed her collection of mostly circular quilts made with ethnic fabrics and featured in her recent book 'Circle Play'. These were particularly striking.**

The traders seemed to be mostly local; lovely bargains in fabrics including Liberty seconds, buttons galore for jewellery, bags of leather scraps, notions and ideas to nibble at the boundaries of your field of work and stretch your imagination. Embroidery stalls tempted everyone with their fibres and notions.

There were plenty of workshops offered by quilters and embroiderers and the uptake was enthusiastic.

One quibble though. The catalogue was just

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a single piece of paper, so you had to be determined to find a particular quilt or exhibitor.

All in all this was a very pleasant day. These smaller shows are treasures that we have to nurture to keep them viable and vibrant.

* entry form from Grosvenor Exhibitions
email emma.cooling@btconnect.com

** Reynola's plaid circles were featured in issue 46 of Fabrications Magazine

Margaret Scholey-Hill

In Celebration of the Life of Carmen A Requiem Mass

The front and back pages of the Order of Service summed up Carmen wonderfully. There were pictures of Carmen, smiling and with a glass in her hand on the front cover and on the back, her hands skilfully working on a beautiful piece of miniature patchwork.

The Requiem Mass was held on the 13th August at the Church of St Mary and St Joseph, Boxmoor. The Mass was very well attended with about 150 people, many of whom were quilters, from both London and locally. The service began with the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful'. This was followed by readings and prayers by members

of Carmen's family, and further prayers and communion taken by Fr Frank Thompson. After a second hymn, Nora Field provided a very moving eulogy. She began with a few of the many tributes Lance (Carmen's husband) had received from Carmen's quilting friends. This was followed by many anecdotal stories, including the clinching factor that convinced Carmen to move into their home in Boxmoor; that there was a quilting group 'just round the corner'.

We heard about many of Carmen's activities such as travelling, golf, skiing but most important the love she had for quilting and most important, helping and teaching others to quilt. A second eulogy was given by one of Carmen's sons. This emphasised the love and care she had for her family. The Mass closed with a final hymn and prayers. The coffin was draped with one of Carmen's exquisite quilts and the close family accompanied it to the crematorium.

Refreshments were held in the Parish Centre. The celebration of Carmen's life was carried through to the Centre where there were beautifully displayed photographs of Carmen throughout her life. This was complemented with a display of her many gorgeous quilts.

Carmen will be always remembered as a wonderful person and sorely missed.

Judy Roose

Our Carmen

The London Quilters have said a reluctant goodbye to Carmen Redler this month. She was such a popular member of our group, it will be hard to go back to the first meeting after our summer break, knowing she will not be with us.

Quilters who joined our group after Carmen became a member saw immediately one of the best quilters they had ever known. To say she was talented and skilled is an understatement. Her work was perfection itself. She was so precise, an award winner. It was customary to see quilters standing in front of one of her exhibits, speaking in low tones of respect and admiration, while her fingers drew air-circles and -points, itching to touch these amazingly perfect pieces, held back only by the code of good conduct and not touching.

Carmen was kind and warm, friendly and outgoing. She was so generous with her time and her skills. When I once asked her if she had a pattern for a cafetiere cosy, she not only sent me the pattern, but one of her own, to guide me along! Yet with all of this, she was completely self-effacing, brushing aside compliments with the ease of someone who has received many.

Carmen was an inspiration to us all. The moment a new technique was developed or shown, she tried it, practised it, and mastered it. When she went to quilt shows, her eyes and her mind were open to the newest trends. Such enthusiasm rubbed off on us and

Carmen would be the first to encourage us to try these. Small wonder she was elected the chairman of our group.

Carmen had a keen eye for colour, which sometimes surprised and always delighted. As the years went by, and she developed a love of miniatures, her keen eye became more important in placing each tiny piece in its proper place. Carmen had so much patience, which was obvious when viewing the scale of her work.

Carmen was a regular contributor to our month "show and tell" feature, showing yet another beautiful piece. She joined in enthusiastically at our Summer Skills evenings, demonstrating her newest technique.

You couldn't know Carmen without being astonished at the energy level of this tiny lady, who accomplished so much. When asked once how tall she was, she replied, "Well, I like to think I'm five feet tall, but I'm not really." This has to be the only self-imposed standard she never reached.

Emily Dahlgren

Very narrow binding

On some journal quilts I've used a very narrow binding made with organza cut on the grain – not on the bias.

First I pinned a sheet of A4 paper over my quilted piece, which started out a bit bigger than A4, then used the edge of the paper as a guide for sewing round it. Took the paper off and sewed round again, just (1/8 inch?) inside the first line, then trimmed the quilt on the first sewing line. (A narrow zigzag round the edge at this stage might be helpful for making a very, very narrow binding.)

The organza was about 1¼" wide, folded so there was more in one "half" of the strip. Pressing the fold is helpful. Lay the folded edge along the trimmed edge (rough edges towards the middle of the quilt, extra width of organza underneath) and sew very close (1/8 inch?) to the fold (and edge), ie on top of the stitching that's already there. If that stitching shows, it can be unpicked.

Sew the long sides first, folding the ends of the long sides to the back before applying the top and bottom binding strips. With the top and bottom strips, leave a bit sticking out at the ends, and when folding those ends back, tuck them in diagonally in an approximation of a mitre. Turn back the binding and pin-baste it (it will be much wider on the back than on the front).

Hand-sew on the back, turning under the top layer of organza (the part with the extra width), or machine in the ditch, leaving the raw edges at the back – they (and all manner of other sins) can be hidden with a false backing, its edges turned under and handsewn over the binding.

Margaret Cooter

Crafting Beauty in Modern Japan

Anyone wishing to be inspired by modern Japanese design or interested in textile art should not miss this wonderful exhibition at the British Museum until 21 October 2007. Included apart from textiles are ceramics, metalwork, objects made of wood and bamboo, laquerwork, dolls, foil and glass.

A beautiful kimono with a chrysanthemum petal design greets you as you enter the exhibition. Twelve silk kimonos illustrate different techniques and outstanding design skills and craftsmanship.

The double ikat (kasuri) pieces of 1984 by MUNCHIRO Rikiszo, one of 1978 by OGURA Kensuke and that of 1989 by MURAKAMI Ryoko using plant dyes were amazing.

A tie-dyed piece of 1978 by OGURA Kensuke, an embroidered kimono of 1980 by FUKUDA Kiju, dyed silks using a rice paste resist technique of 1961 by HATA Tokio and of 1984 by MORIGUCHI Kunihiro, stencilled pieces of 1968 by MATSUBARA Yoshichi and of 1987 by KAMAGA Toshiko and a woodblock print of 1979 by SUZUTA Teruji illustrate the many techniques and the wonderful designs used by these artists.

I found the displays of the other crafts equally inspiring.

Two interesting short films show some of the craftsmen at work and explaining their techniques.

Hannelore Braunsberg


Check it off your "to-do" List

Its that time of year again - its time to renew your LQ membership. The membership fee is still only £24 per annum. Renewal forms are available online or see Evelyn at meetings. Cash or cheque accepted.

2007/2008 Calendar of Events

- 17 September - Sandra Grusd -**
‘Me and My Quilts’
- 15 October - Sandra Meech**
“Journeys”
- 19 November - AGM with trader**
- 17 December - Christmas Party**
- 21 January - Effie Galletly**
“Catching the Light” - focused on the Scottish Landscape Quilt
- 18 February - Annette Morgan**
“Innovative Quilt Making”
- 17 March - Inke Berlyn**
“Landscapes”
- 21 April - tbc**
- 19 May - Kathy Thiessan**
“Mennonite Quilts”
- 16 June - Patricia McLaughlin**
“Brave Men’s Blood” - brief history of Zululand/composition of her quilt
- 21 July - Members Sewing Evening**
August - no meeting - summer holidays
- 15 September - tbc**
- 20 October - tbc**
- 17 November - London Quilter’s AGM**
- 15 December - Christmas Party**

Meetings are held at 7.30 for 8pm in
Crossfield Centre Halls
8 Fairhazel Gardens
London NW6 3SG

 0207 625 4815

The hall is located between Fairfax Place and
Goldhurst Terrace.

If you are travelling from Swiss Cottage station,
there is an exit that will take you down steps onto
Belzise Road.

The London Quilters web site address is:
www.longquilters.org.uk

It is run and maintained by Tricia Revest
Email: p.a.revest@qmul.ac.uk

Don't Forget

A comprehensive list of LQ library books is
available online at: www.londonquilters.org.uk.
Keep in mind about one third of the books are on
loan at any given time.



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