

ART QUILTS XIX ARTIST SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW 2014

Artist: Georgia Heller

The Exhibit Art Quilts XIX Permission to Play *Storytelling Art Quilts* at Chandler Center of the Arts Gallery. Exhibit Dates are November 7, 2014 to January 17, 2015.

Quilt Artist Georgia Heller who resides and calls Scottsdale Arizona home, creates pictorial artworks influenced by the colors, landscape, and history of the Southwest. Two of her quilted artworks showcased and enhanced with thread play is “Life on the Trail: Brown’s Ranch”. Georgia says this “was inspired by the effects of time and climate on the shape of a saguaro, and by the history of the area where this saguaro is located. “915 Maple Avenue, Tempe, AZ” was inspired by the effort to preserve houses in the Maple/Ash historic district of Tempe. In the quilt, the house is showing signs of its age, but also illustrates the active life of its current occupants.”

Artist studio space: I am very fortunate to have an art studio in my home. In 2010 we moved to AZ from CT, bought an older home, and did a major renovation. This included reconfiguring the floor plan to create a studio in the space that used to be the kitchen and breakfast room of the house.”

Favorite Art tools? “My tools include inks, my camera, a printer, the sewing machine, and lots of different threads.”

When did your journey start in creating Art Quilts? “For over 25 years I worked in the computer and software field. Then I retired from corporate life and discovered a love of color, fiber, and quilting. It started when I was browsing the sale rack of a local bookstore and bought a book on the use of computers in different fields of art. After reading the chapter on using computers to assist in the design of quilts, I signed up for a local quilting class. Up until that time I had not done any art work and my sewing skills were limited to fixing a hem and sewing on a button.”

Art Education: “I received a BA from Skidmore College (in Saratoga Springs, NY) with a major in Mathematics. I then got an MS from New York University with a major in Industrial Engineering. Since retiring and getting into quilting, I have taken various classes on art and on quilting techniques at different venues. And I do a lot of reading.”

Technique changes: “Many of my early quilts were contemporary interpretations of traditional quilts. Over time, as I looked for different types of challenges, my work evolved to creating pictorial quilts. I use whatever tools I can to create a picture that tells a story. I am influenced by my surroundings, and the stories and pictures over the past four years have reflected my experiences and impressions of Arizona – which is so different from New York and New England, where I grew up and spent most of my life.”

Influence: “Things I see or experience can spark an ideas for new quilts. However, I often find that some of my most innovative work has been made in response to art quilt group challenges or

themes for an exhibit. Responding to an external theme or challenge forces me to think differently, it is somewhat like solving a new puzzle.”

Artist Statement: “After spending over 25 years focused on a marketing and technical career in the corporate world, I am delighted to be creating artwork that I enjoy making and other people enjoy seeing. It is not something I ever could have imagined I would be doing.”

Artist Georgia Heller information:

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Artist Spotlight by Denise A. Currier Curator/Juror

Artist image included: Photograph courtesy of the Artist