



PACIFIC PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

Bits & Pieces

www.pacificpiecemakers.org

May 2011

Fast, Furious and Fun with Rose Hughes

by Chris Smith

As a newbie quilter around 1994, I joined Flying Geese Quilt Guild in Irvine, California. The guild had a practice of assigning each member a "secret sister," who would bring little quilt-related surprises to each month's meeting for her secret sister. Soon after joining, I was randomly assigned Rose Hughes, who was the huge guild's president. Although she had not yet become internationally known as she is now, I couldn't have been more intimidated. Not only was she our fearless leader; she was already a prolific art quilter, when very few others were. She'd hold up a piece or two that wowed me at every month's show and tell! And she had this raven thing. It was really hard for a traditional newbie to know what to get for her, and while others could often guess who was their secret sister, I only hoped that one day she'd know even who I was. As the time approached to make her President's quilt, which was presented on the last night of the President's term, I was given the most special assignment because I was her secret sister: I was to make the raven to be appliquéd on the quilt. It was the first artsy appliquéd challenge of my life. And I loved it! I had many black-on-black fabrics, some shiny threads, a photo to inspire my somewhat realistic raven, and I thread-painted all the layers together. As I recall, it turned out to be awesome—but I was a newbie, so maybe it was not! Anyway, it inspired me take on other machine-embellished appliquéd and artsier challenges. I still don't think Rose ever knew who the anonymous secret sister was, but she is someone I have never forgotten.



Guild members are in for a treat because Rose Hughes has designed her lectures and workshops to help quilters creatively explore new techniques, build new skills, find innovative ways to express themselves, and to bring their own life experiences and unique spirit to their work. On May 19th, she will teach "Fast Pieced Appliquéd" from 10 to 4. In just a day together, Rose

says participants will learn the secret of using machine piecing and appliquéd in combination to simplify complicated curves and circles to help get the perfect results we crave in our quilts. In addition, the workshop will explore how to layer work with a wide variety of colorful, unique and unusual embellishments. Her lecture on Friday, May 20th, is entitled, "Raven ...Wisdom in Life and In Quilts: Trunk Show."

From Signal Hill, California (the Long Beach area), this fiber artist draws inspiration from the ever-changing hills of the local landscape, and from the ravens that, she says, "mirror and mock the region's boisterous, and sometimes-crazy human residents."

Watching ravens, she sees "how they live and weave their lives among us. Keeping an eye on us, laughing at us, they point to a layer of life that often goes unnoticed." She likes to quote poet Mary Oliver, who calls these rowdy creatures as "an advertisement for the more than ordinary life."

Rose uses the idea of layers to transform fabric. She often begins with a layer of strong structural shapes to

suggest a landscape's initial impact on the senses. Like a raven, stealing and hoarding the 'shiny objects', she embellishes with handspun yarns to create strong lines to highlight each shape, and and she adds whimsy, texture, and sparkle by using a variety glass beads and magical, shiny

of found objects.

These embellishments used in combination with hand painted, hand dyed fabrics, imported silks and selected textural layers bring each original piece to life. As the workshop says, our time with Rose will probably be "fast, furious, and fun!"



President's Message

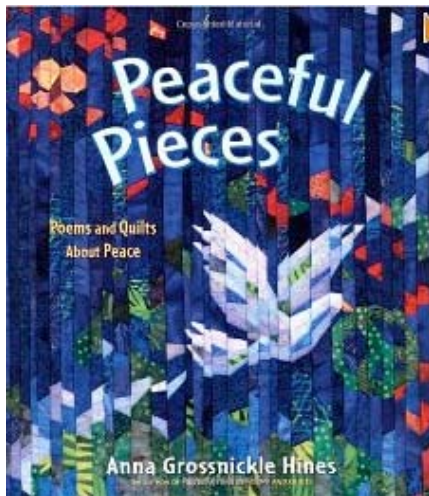
Wow, another great challenge show. Thank you Carol Tackett and Kalynn Olson for putting this show together. Thanks to all of you who had entries in the show. So much talent and hard work went into it. Thanks also to all of you who brought all that tasty food for our opening night. It made it a wonderful evening for all who attended. There was plenty for everyone.

Thanks again, for the terrific show.

—Lola De Longoria

Kudos to Our Members

In celebration of her new book, *Peaceful Pieces*, Anna Hines will share thoughts about peacemaking, poetry and quilting at the Four-Eyed Frog on Saturday, April 30th, at 4PM. Please join her.



Treasurer's Report

Balance at beginning of October....\$12,495.31

Plus: Monthly deposits per Income

Dues\$785.00

Workshop fees.....\$110.00

Angel donations\$273.75

Meeting fees.....\$15.00

Total Income\$1,183.75

Minus: Monthly checks from Expense

Sherrill Kahn lecture\$300.00

Sherrill Kahn workshop\$1,200.00

Sherrill Kahn travel/meals\$500.44

GAC commission on sales\$162.20

AIR quilt quilting\$253.20

GAC rent.....\$206.00

Library.....\$111.00

Total expenses\$2,732.84

Balance at month end\$10,946.22

Final Challenge Report

The first moment you walked into the foyer to see Sue Friedland's magnificent earthy, tactile pieces of art floating around you in the neutral shades of nature, you could anticipate the gallery and auditorium bursting into a symphony of riotous color with fabrics flaming off of the walls.

Some of the comment cards received shouted "WOW", "amazing use of the colors of red", "I never expected to see these amazing pieces of art in a quilt show" and "this was my first quilt show, but definitely not my last. Such beautiful art created with such joy in such a beautiful setting".

Kalynn and I asked you for 50 quilts to celebrate 50 years of the GAC and you gave us 85 quilts. You are amazing and wonderful. I could not even to begin to pick a favorite, but the theme was so gloriously carried out in each piece.

We want to thank everyone for supporting the show. thanks to Bruce Jones who helped hang the show and for giving us really good direction on how to balance each wall and make the show flow. Others instrumental in putting this together: Jim Tackett, Dave Windsor, Claire McPherson, Barbara Dunsmoor, Paula Osborne, Sue Friedland and all of you.

We promise, we won't sit in your driveways next year. Thank you from the bottom of our quilt stashes.

—Carol Tackett & Kalynn Oleson

Quilts of Valor

This year's *Quilts Of Valor* will be going to the V.A. Hospital in Palo Alto May 12. If you are planning to make a quilt this year, please drop it off at my house, Carol Tackett's house or The Loft by May



11. We will be leaving early in the morning on May 12. This year's delivery will bring the total to more than 100 QOV to the V.A. Hospital. Our quilts are very much appreciated. Thank you all!

—Marilyn Limbaugh

April was a Busy Month for the Guild



Terri Thayer (above left and right) entertained and amused April's meeting attendees. While our own Bonnie Toy (pictured below in purple shirt) once again helped quilters to improve their free-motion quilting skills. If you missed Bonnie's excellent class sign up for her intermediate to advanced class taking place in November.

