

# Food for Thought

## Connections and Discussion Points for Younger Visitors

Just as there are different kinds of foods, there are different kinds of quilts. We invite you to look at the art quilts on display and to take the time to ask questions about the artists' techniques, imagery, and intent. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions posed. Keep in mind that individual pieces may connect to others in more than one way.

1. Because these quilts won't necessarily be used on beds, art quilting is open to many ways of manipulating fabric and fabric-like materials. Identify several traditional, and not-so-traditional techniques used in these art quilts:

- When shapes cut out of different fabrics are sewn together side by side to make a new design it is called *patchwork*, or *piecing*. Find one or more patchwork quilts.

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- *Applique* is fabric shapes placed on top of a background and sewn or glued in place. Find one or more examples of applique.

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- Many art quilters today use **photography** by itself and as a starting point. Find instances where photography is used in the artwork.

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- **Painting** on fabric with brushes or by using printing techniques like stamping or silkscreen is another useful technique. Find examples of paint on fabric.

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2. There are a lot of tomatoes in this collection. Find several examples and discuss how each artist has treated this ingredient the same, or differently. Does the ingredient have to be realistic or is just the suggestion of the ingredient enough?

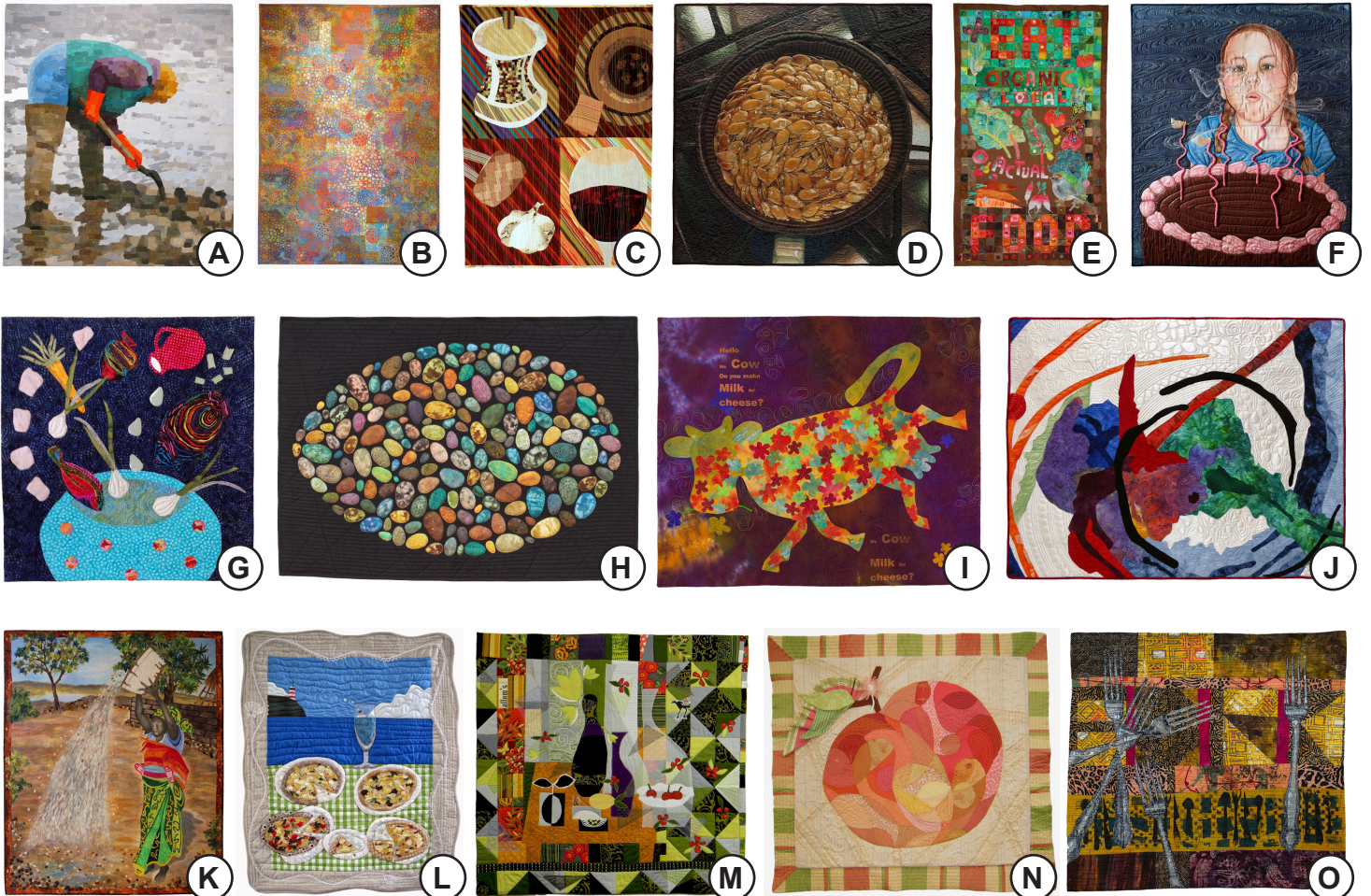
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3. Starting with harvesting and gathering ingredients, then cooking or otherwise constructing a dish, the enjoyment of eating, and finally rinsing the peels down the drain; the making of food is something everyone can relate to. Make your own food story. Choose three or more artworks and place them in an order to tell a food story.

- 1     2     3     4     5     6     7
- 8     9     10     11     12     13     14



4. A delicious dessert or other special food or presentation hints at a celebration or a treat. Find a celebration portrayed in one of the art quilts and describe the festivity.

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5. The opposite of a celebration might be not having enough food, and several pieces in the show speak to that.



Does *That's MINE!* by Kathleen Kastles make you think that the children are playing with a bright fruit or that they are fighting over which one of them eats today?

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*Kwasini Sifting Beans* by Susan Jackan is a woman sifting beans -- which could represent a beautifully simple way of life, or it could be an example of the different levels of effort first world countries and the developing world must use to be able to eat. Where do you get your food, and how might that be different from how people in other parts of the world get their food?

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How does *What's for Dinner?* by Gabriele DiTota address the question of food insecurity in America?

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6. What do these art quilts say to you? If you were to create a piece for Food For Thought, what would you make?

## **Examples:**

### ***Patchwork:***

*The Invitation* by Janis Doucette  
*Heirlooms* by Elaine Millar  
*Eat Actual Food* by Judith Roderick  
*Chopsticks and Edamame* by Mary Vaneecke

### ***Applique:***

*Tableau Morceaux* by Nancy Bardach  
*It's the Beans* by Phyllis Cullen  
*Consider the Egg* by Lisa Dodson  
*Bella* by Karol Kusmaul  
*Vege Peels Circling the Drain* by Judy Ross

### ***Photography:***

*Pepitas* by Vicki Bohnhoff  
*Elegant Edibles* by Jennifer Day  
*Artichokes and Friends* by Betty Hahn  
*Clam Chowder: Step 1* by Cat Larrea  
*Yum! Pineapple Upside Down Cake* by Diane Powers-Harris  
*Insalata* by Sarah Ann Smith

### ***Painting on fabric:***

*Forks* by Susan Callahan  
*Hello Cow* by Bella Kaplan  
*That's MINE!* by Kathleen Kastles  
*Il Mercato* by Jeannie Moore  
*Garden for Victory* by K Velis Turan

### ***Tomatoes:***

*Artichokes and Friends* by Betty Hahn  
*August 10, 1912 Tomato Soup* by Jim Hay  
*Heirlooms* by Elaine Millar  
*Insalata* by Sarah Ann Smith  
*Garden for Victory* by K. Velis Turan

### ***Celebrations:***

*Tableau Morceaux* by Nancy Bardach  
*Forks* by Susan Callahan  
*The Invitation* by Janis Doucette  
*C is For Couching* by Helen Godden  
*Artichokes and Friends* by Betty Hahn  
*Make a Wish* by Cherrie Hampton  
*Bella* by Karol Kusmaul  
*Cherry Pie* by Velda Newman  
*Yum! Pineapple Upside Down Cake* by Diane Powers-Harris  
*Light Pizza House* by Mikiko Takase