



A letter from Lisa Ellis, board president of SAQA *Stitching together a global community*

In my second year as SAQA's board president, I am even more certain that quilt artists and their creativity make the world a better place.

Our work comes from our hearts, our core beliefs, and our unique perspectives. The art we make is so intimate and personal that it is often difficult to share with others. What if our work is criticized? What if our deeply held views are misunderstood or ridiculed?

It is through the act of sharing our artwork with each other that global connection can happen. Placing our artwork into local and global exhibitions makes us vulnerable. However, viewing the personal work of others brings us greater understanding of the values and perspectives of artists different from ourselves. Art transcends the barriers of language and tradition and connects us, stitch by stitch, to those from other communities. Through SAQA, we discern the life stories of strangers, sewn by hand and formed in fabric.

Through SAQA, we meet new mentors and friends from across the globe. We move beyond our local communities and open ourselves to new experiences, ideas, and values.

Through this sharing process we are changed. Through SAQA we experience what it means to be a global citizen.

I have been deeply touched by the generosity of the many SAQA members I have had the privilege to meet over the past year.



Art transcends the barriers of language and tradition and connects us, stitch by stitch, to those from other communities.”

—Lisa Ellis

Kathleen Probst, *Anchored*

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Exhibition Highlights

21 Regional exhibitions on display during 2016.



Stories of Migration at the Textile Museum in Washington, DC garnered national attention.

13 International venues including exhibits in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Taiwan, and the UK.



16 Global exhibitions traveling during 2016 to 41 venues, including 13 museums.



Celebrating Silver was the first global exhibition to go to Australia- it was displayed on 4 continents!



A letter from Martha Sielman, SAQA's executive director

I've been thinking about what really defines success and accomplishment for SAQA. Certainly, our success is shown in the number of amazing exhibitions we traveled across the globe in 2016.

Achievement can also be measured within the context of financial accountability and stability. Our finances are sound, and we continue to expand our programs.

SAQA's many accomplishments are truly attributable to the shared passions and efforts of our global community. SAQA thrives because of the shared commitment of our members for the advancement of the art quilt. Our enthusiastic membership has now expanded into 39 countries.

SAQA prospers because of the many volunteers who

share their time and talent to ensure the vibrancy of exhibitions, the quality of our educational programs, and the professionalism of our publications.

SAQA flourishes because of open-hearted supporters like you who choose to make gifts, large and small, to ensure that recognition for our art form will endure into the future.

Our success lies in a shared dedication to the art quilt and our common will to stitch together a community of support for this global movement.

Executive Director

SAQA's 2016 highlights

- SAQA Membership expanded into 39 countries (almost 20% of our members are non-US).
- To better connect our members with the talents of recognized artists, SAQA launched "SAQA Seminar", an online interactive member forum that concentrates on a select artistic topic.
- Three SAQA webinars were made available for members in 2016 including "International Artists Panel," "Lightning Talks from the Lincoln conference," and "Working in a Series."
- To improve exhibition accessibility to artists living outside of the United States, we introduced a new initiative to underwrite international exhibition shipping costs.
- We created a video called "Stitching Together a Global Community" to share the many benefits of SAQA with potential new members.
- To recognize our wonderful volunteers, the first-ever Yvonne Porcella Volunteer of the Year awards were initiated.
- The "Art Quilt Retrospective" project was launched to honor and recognize the many accomplishments of the art quilt movement and individual artists over the past 50 years.
- We introduced our Affiliate Membership Program which provides groups and organizations with the ability to join SAQA.
- Due to the success of the prior traveling Trunk Show programs, we reached out to our members to create a new series of artworks. Coordinated by Kathy York, over 450 pieces of art were received, matted, and processed. The new trunk shows began traveling throughout the world in April 2017.

Thank you to our 2016 donors!

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Donations from 01/01/2016 - 12/31/2016

SAQA Budget 2016

Revenue

Membership fees	\$239,582
Conferences	\$79,090
Publication sales	\$56,586
Exhibit Income	\$78,325
Donations	\$149,933
Auctions	\$89,449
Other income	\$31,010

Total revenue **\$723,975**

Expenses

Program services:	
Conferences	\$100,203
Education	\$145,295
Exhibitions	\$157,426
Publications	\$125,453
Administration	\$197,155

Total expenses **\$725,532**

Net Programs **-\$1,557**
Net Assets **\$218,464**

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