

Jurors Statement: Best of SAQA

By Jahje Bath-Ives, Doctorial Candidate

Quilt making is an art form with a long history, and I feel that the entries for this competition covered many aspects and interpretations in the long lineage of quilt making. Having studied the history and techniques of both craft and fine art it is exciting to see quilts being created that speak to both traditions.

As artists look to the world around them for inspiration it only makes sense that the quilts being made today would draw their inspiration as much from the traditions of quilt making as they would from the history of modern art. Many works in the show like Phil Jones' "One Blue Square" and Carol Ray Watkins' "Out of Hubris" cross the bridge between craft and fine art with their consideration of the image and pattern being as important as their attention to fine craft and quilting details.



"One Blue Square" 47" h x 23" w

© Phil D. Jones www.PhilJones.com



"Out of Hubris" 45.5" h x 24" w

© Carol Ray Watkins www.CarolWatkins.com

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In jurying this show I was often struck by the intimacy and intricacy that the participants captured in their quilts.

In the work "Reticulation," Eileen Lauterborn uses hundreds of little lines of color to create a composition that bounces within the confines of the rectangular quilt.

"Reticulation"
42"h x 24"w
© Eileen Lauterborn

To find out more about SAQA, visit our booth at the International Quilt Festival or contact our Executive Director Martha Sielman at 860-487-4199 or msielman@sbcglobal.net

Basic membership is \$40 a year; professional artist members pay \$105 a year.

The SAQA Journal is published four times a year.

www.SAQA.com

Many of the quilt artists in this show used their own hand dyed fabrics as the blocks from which they built their works. “Earth 17” by Janet Schultz uses dyed fabrics like a painter’s palette to generate an abstract rendition of the southwest terra..



“Earth 17” 24”h x 24”w © Janet Schultz

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development and documentation. www.SAQA.com



“Best of SAQA”
Special Exhibition
International Quilt Festival
Houston, TX
October 10/22-10/30/05

“First Thaw” 24”h x 24”w

© Carol Anne Grotrian www.CarolAnneGrotrian.com

Carol Anne Grotrian’s “First Thaw” and “Rachel Carson Pond, 8:15 pm” were innovative in their use of the hand dyed fabrics as forms to construct the landscapes they reference.

I was also impressed by works like Watkins’s “Out of Hubris,” which used the idea of quilting to create a layered composition that makes a delicate and humanistic statement about the war in Iraq and our current political situation. Approaching such a loaded subject can be perilous ground since many have a tendency to get emotionally involved, resulting in work that is heavy handed. In “Out of Hubris” the quiet world of quilt making is used to create a gentle white space where the realities of the war can be presented to the viewer without forced judgment.

Overall I was impressed by the variety and quality of entries received for the “Best of SAQA.” It was a wonderful opportunity to see the variety and scope of exciting work that is being done in contemporary quilt making today.

For more information about Studio Art Quilt Associates, visit www.SAQA.com.



“Rachel Carson Pond, 8:15 pm”
38”h x 24”w © Carol Anne Grotrian