

Heartstring Quilters

October 2019

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7 p.m.
Colleen McCubbin Stepanic

About Colleen

Colleen McCubbin Stepanic is an artist who creates physical forms from painted canvas. She was born in Newport News, Virginia and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, Cleveland and Washington DC. Her transient childhood instilled a life-long love of travel and exploration which heavily influences her artistic practice. She earned a BFA from the University of Dayton and an MFA from the Tyler School of Art. McCubbin Stepanic has been the recipient of many grants and awards and has successfully completed numerous artist residencies including the Joan Mitchell Center, the Millay Colony, and the Vermont Studio Center all of which were completed in 2016. She was also a Ballinglen Fellowship Artist in 2017. McCubbin Stepanic's work has been featured in exhibitions in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and Buffalo.



She has been included in exhibitions at The LaGrange Art Museum (Georgia), The Susquehanna Museum of Art (Pennsylvania), The Woodmere Art Museum (Pennsylvania), and the Toledo Museum of Art (Ohio). Her work has been shown repeatedly in many states including, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, Arizona, Tennessee, Ohio, Washington D.C. and New York. She has had 13 solo exhibitions of her work since 2003 and has participated in art projects in Budapest, Hungary and Batoufam, Cameroon. imagination, allowing precise and subtle variations of perspective and color within the orderly framework of the loom. I'm excited to see the colors of yarn when they come out of the dye pot and to see an image develop once the yarn is on the loom.



Heartstrings at *Living Beyond Breast Cancer*

Our thanks to Cindy Friedman and Terri Ciampitti for selling pins at this year's conference of *Living Beyond Breast Cancer*. They sold \$340 worth of pins!

Dear Cindy,

On behalf of the staff and the participants, I want to thank you for bringing, Heartstrings, to exhibit at Living Beyond Breast Cancer's 2019 Living Beyond Breast Cancer Conference: *Sharing Wisdom, Sharing Strength*. Exhibitors are such an important part of the conference as participants truly appreciate the opportunity to learn about services and products that can help them live more fully, and empower them forward.

Sharon Sood, Manager, Educational Programs

Heartstring Quilters Meeting Minutes September 12, 2019

The buzz: summer classes taken, choir performances, give-away of Seta color/transparent paint from Pebeo, I'll take your dues, it's a stuffed dinosaur!, handouts for Undercover Quilters 2019 Quilt show, art school feels like camp, what's the parking ticket situation this year, whoa—a 6 foot long roll over Margo's shoulder, ...made life a little easier, where is my name tag, how are you?, that's amazing, thank you Rose, I forgot to bring my dyed organza scraps, I'm going to be able to come more often this year, how was your retreat? Have you signed in yet? A new face!

Karoline opened the 2019-2020 program year with “Programs made possible by Lauren and Deb! Welcome everyone!”

Show 'n' Tell

Anita—spent the summer dying fabric. Showed a hand-made Chinese Thread Book, which is a trifold portfolio with paper origami containers on each page. Women made these 'books' to hold their threads, patterns and needles for their sewing work. It would fold up for storing the items. Anita said it was very soothing to make it; she collected paper from a variety of sources. Found the pattern and method online.

Susan—Last Monday, Susan was the program speaker at the Undercover Speakers Guild. She spoke on exhibitions and best practices and showed several pieces of hers which have been in exhibitions. She concluded her talk by showing a new art quilt which honors her late son, Hart. The piece is made from Hart's clothes and some of her silk stash. It involved a community approach to the evolution of its design: discussion and feedback from family and friends, a 100-day challenge,



exploration of symbols of love and forgiveness, and metaphors on the everyday ebb and flow of life.

The piece is made of individual squares that are constructed of denim material from Hart's jeans, the common element, which are overlaid and fused with Susan's silks. Together, these became a metaphor for her and Hart. Rather than a sad task, it was a wonderful process. It also won best of show at the Culver Lake Art Show, Branchville, NJ, the last weekend of July, and is now going to QAQ at Schweinfurth in Auburn NY.

After her talk, several women approached Susan to share their own stories of love and loss and thanked her for telling her story.

Technical notes: (1) The silk is fused with Steam-a-seam



lite 2 (admittedly terrible; a little better if you press the first time—rather than iron—which helps keep the sewing needle from getting gooped up). (2) Hanging—Susan has ordered a clear plastic ¼ inch strip (flat) and will sew a clear organza sleeve on the back so that it can be hung for viewing on both sides, without the sleeve and support being obtrusive. (3) Each square is joined with a ring sewing on by embroidery floss.

Margo—Brought a large art quilt by Loni Rossi that had been acquired by a friend years ago. The quilt, which is heavily stitched, had shown at AQE, and at a show at the Kimmel; Karoline also recalls seeing it in a magazine. Loni came over to the owner’s house and advised her on how to hang it and to protect it from sunlight (the owner would cover the piece with black trash bags which were removed in haste for visitors!).



Margo also distributed flyers for the Undercover Quilters 2019 Quilt show: Oct. 11-13, in the Brookhaven Municipal Building, 2 Cambridge Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015.



Rose—This summer she went with Anita and Sally to a class on printing and painting using ProChemical & Dye products at Quilting by the Lake, Falls River, MA. The class instructor was Lisa Walton (current president of SAQA). Rose has been playing with the new techniques she learned including a new art quilt called “Life Interrupted,” based on the theme of the Tree of Life. The image includes a prominent tree as well as falling leaves and seeds, which together with hot colors that are reminiscent of fire make up a depiction of the rejuvenation and destruction cycle of life.

Bonnie—She and Terry made blocks for the guild to sign, which will be made into a quilt for Soryl. Please sign a block—if your name is on the list she doesn’t have one from you yet. Word is that Soryl is adjusting to her new surroundings and life; it’s a process.

Lauren—Showed a piece made with her daughter that about 20 x 20 inches and called “Pearl Marion and the Total Solar Eclipse.” It is a photo of Pearl who was Lauren’s grandmothe’s cousin. Lauren and her daughter Katie visited the town where Pearl grew up in August 2017 - Red Bud, Illinois - to do some family research and happened to be there for the total solar eclipse. The photo was screenprinted on fabric, and combined with a painted background. She then added a hand-dyed organza overlay that softly moves the surface and modifies the details by interacting with light and the photograph below. It is finished with a poem, written by Pearl, about the sun. A rich piece of history and storytelling. [I loved this, but I couldn’t keep up with the amazing details!]

Went to a QBL class– (BTW, there is no lake; it has been drained) taught by Emily Richardson, from Philly, who works on sheers. The process, basically:

1. Painting the fabrics. (Next she is challenging herself to screen print the fabrics)
2. Then you cut everything up and put back together
3. Layering with organza

Aim is to get interactions between the painted and transparent surfaces. Truly a meditation, and every step is by hand. Lauren showed her class piece, which was an abstraction of the Sun Pyramid (based on a trip to Mexico). She has made five pieces since she returned including a piece based on meditation and another based on a walk on the Adirondacks. Now looking at modifying her color palette for the change of seasons.



Technical note: uses #12 weight thread by Valdani (Canada). Can paint a little each day, cut and assemble on the weekend. Very productive and fun.



Debbie—Proud to have actually started a quilt, but didn't bring it. It uses an original block design that turned out to be more complicated than planned. What she DID bring was a repurposed bowling ball that was covered with a cut glass mosaic: flowers of many colors. Glued with silicone and grouted. Intended to be a gazing ball for the garden. (How special do you have to be to be the recipient of all your friends' cast off bowling balls.)

Terri—Showed Vernyce's phenomenal quilt top that is 100 X 109" for a king sized bed. Each block (approximately 10 in square) is foundation pieced on muslin and then pieced together. Kip told Terry how many pieces were in the quilt, but she didn't remember. So we're going to have a guessing contest, and whomever guesses correctly gets to KEEP THE QUILT! I'm thinking...10 strips on average x approximately 120 blocks...(I can smell victory!) In addition to the massive size, we also enjoyed the assortment of fabrics. A joyful piece.



Elizabeth—Is making a stuffed animal, specifically a velociraptor, complete with teeth and forearms. It is super-secret for a dinosaur-themed surprise party for her husband. The theme emerges from a childhood story when dismissed the Bible because it didn't include the dinosaurs! Elizabeth also had a painting made of an ankylosaurus—Scott's favorite dino). (Apparently the interest stuck.)

Rachel—Completed a star themed quilt with her firstgrade god daughter. Their “Frankenstein” project has some crooked stitch lines, adding to the charm, and a lot of love.

Cindy—Showed a new piece based on the “Lonely Traveler” that her son owns. It is a whole cloth (hombre silk charmeuse) piece and the background details was fully stitched before any of the figures were fused on. Source for silk 38th or 37, closer to 9th in NYC. She uses paper Solve printed with the design as a guide for the background stitching; she stitches right through the Solve and then tears it away. For the stitching thread she uses spaghetti (WonderFil), which is very thick and lies on the surface (it goes through a needle well and she uses standard thread in the bobbin). Despite all her family and other commitments, she was able to accomplish this in under 3 months.



Hope pins will be on sale, Sept 21st, at a table at the upcoming Living Beyond Breast Cancer Conference: *Sharing Wisdom, Sharing Strength*¹ at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel (address: 201 N. 17th St, Philadelphia, 19103; closest station is Suburban). There are at least 100 pins that will be offered for \$20/pin (50% goes to Living Beyond Breast Cancer, 50% to Heartstrings). Cindy and Terry will be at the table, anyone is welcome to come and take a ‘shift’.

1 <https://www.lbbc.org/programs-events/2019-living-beyond-breast-cancer-conference-sharing-wisdom-sharing-strength>

Show & Tell, con't.

Cindy also put in a plug for the SAQA quilt auction coming up in late Sept – Oct, and the SAQA conference in Toronto (March 19-22, 2020). Cindy was also congratulated on her selection/joining the SAQA board of directors.

If you are in Toronto try to get to Queen Street West and other locations for some fabulous fabric stores. We also discussed the demise of the retail fabric stores in the greater Philadelphia area.

Arlene—Brought her squares from the handbag project and asked for help in completing it. Note that the instructions are still on the Heartstring's website.

Karoline—Showed a baby quilt in progress for her sister. The baby is a boy and the sister is... very particular. Karoline found an image online of baby elephant between its mommy elephant's legs and manipulated it so that the dominating colors are blue and green. Very dramatic effect. She's going to quilt it heavily; has ruled out painting the face of the elephant as being too feminine. The photo was printed onto fabric by Spoonflower.



Other:

Oaks Quilt Show is currently running.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Cerullo

VIDEO



From Silkworms to Silk Quilt

Heartstring Quilters

The newsletter of Heartstring Quilters is published monthly.

Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Lankenau Hospital Annenberg Conference Center, in the McLean Conference Room, at Lancaster Avenue and City Line avenues, in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Membership dues are \$40/year. Guest fee is \$3, or \$5 when there is a speaker.

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Newsletter Submissions

Send items for the newsletter, including announcements and information from other guilds, photos, etc. by the 18th of each month to Lauren Anderson at: altolauren@mac.com.

Visit

www.heartstringquilters.com
for more information.