

Surface Design Association, North Peninsula, November 2021

Vaxed and masked, the members of the North Peninsula chapter met with guests Nov. 10 at A Stitch in Time Quilt Shop in Sequim. In the group: Evette Allerdings, Caryl Fallert-Gentry, Jeri Auty, Leslie Dickinson, Pat Herkal, Annie Karl, Janice Speck, Barbara Houshmand, Carol Olsen, Donna Lee Dowdney, Sue Gale, Debra Olson, Barbara Ramsey, Erica Iseminger, Liisa Fagerlund and Linda Carlson, along with new member Beth Ann Corwith and guests Eva Kozun, Lynn Gilles and Ginny Diamond.

Sue opened the meeting with a summary of the year's events, and the opinion by several that we had "gone up a notch" in the quality of our exhibits, including the Fiber Habit window. "Asian Inspired" received special recognition, with a round of applause to Evette, who handled renovation of the window and many construction upgrades and designed this exhibit and with the assistance of others, our current holiday "Art as Gifts" window. The new labeling system, which identifies the artist for each piece and thus simplifies contact with individual artists, also drew praise.

Rhythm of Light

"Rhythm of Light," our just concluded exhibit at the Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum in La Conner, prompted many favorable comments in the museum's visitor "guest book" and efforts will be made to get copies of some of those comments for us on our website and possibly in future applications for exhibits.

Leslie took the names of those who have not received payment for exhibited pieces that were reported as sold (or not returned to SDA), and will contact the museum re: this issue. Concern about the museum's procedure for logging inventory was also expressed, this being different (and perhaps less secure) than that of other galleries at which members have exhibited.

The quilt museum staff expressed interest in having us do another show, but one issue that members agreed needs to be discussed with any venue is sales. In La Conner, the labels for pieces did not provide prices or artist contact information, and no handout or notebook with such information was convenient to museum visitors.

There was also a brief discussion of the many long-time members who did not participate in the La Conner show, and there was a comment re: how some were perceived to have been intimidated by the exhibit theme. Liisa pointed out we should not let themes intimidate us.

Zoom Meetings for Those Exhibiting

Debra cited the value of meetings via Zoom, rather than in-person, for those participating in exhibits/pop-up sales such as the current Art as Gifts exhibit and Farmers Market booth. The one such meeting held so far provided an opportunity for the organizer (in this case, Jeri took the lead) to spell out specifics and for those participating to ask questions without taking up time at a regular meeting.

January-February Fiber Habit Window

Debra will curate the first 2022 window, with selections from Rhythm of Light to be shown. This will allow us to share a subset of the exhibit with Peninsula residents who were unable to travel to La Conner. (Editor's note: great publicity opportunity, too, especially if we can quote some of accolades from the museum.)

March-April Fiber Habit Window

Curators wanted!

Soliciting Praise re: Window

We have heard many favorable comments re: each of our Fiber Habit windows, and Donna Lee raised the question of how we could get those in writing. One possibility is to create a QR code that could be posted in the window so passersby could access an online form for jotting down compliments. (Editor's note: we would need to clarify that this link is not for artist sales contacts.)

2022 Leadership Team

Liisa offered to join the new leadership team of Caryl, Jeri and Evette, taking the place of Cynthia LeRouge, who has stepped down due to new professional responsibilities. This is a two-year commitment, which Debra noted she had found extremely educational, and she and Sue expressed appreciation for the counsel provided both by previous leadership team members and Leslie.

Carol Olsen has assumed the website management responsibility from Cathie Weir. She asked that if we have information for the website, to email it to her with "website" in the subject line of our emails.

Emailing Each Other

Carol's request brought a reminder that when responding to an individual, it is important to put that member's address in the "to" line. Do not respond to an individual via "SDA-NP." This means that if an individual has requested information (or made an offer, such as driving a carpool) using the chapter email, you MUST delete sda-np@googlegroups.com from the "to" line and substitute the individual's name.

Wilderbee/The Mead Werks

Several pieces were sold at this Port Townsend venue, and we are invited to return again, perhaps for next summer. It is important that those exhibiting recognize that sales are the responsibility of individual artists: the owners provide the venue at no cost to us but other than keeping a list of artist contacts, are unable to facilitate sales in any way.

Looking Ahead to 2022

Topics suggested for future meetings include Erica's wrapped stones, soluble stabilizers and 10-15-minute presentations by members on their media or techniques.

Caryl pointed out this was our first ever morning meeting (made necessary by the venue's schedule) and a show of hands indicated that members would attend morning meetings. She also asked if time should be designated at meetings for socializing, and the possibility of having morning meetings followed by opportunity for lunch (brown-bag, potluck or restaurant) was discussed.

Caryl also noted that several long-time members are no longer participating and asked if those of us who know them could perhaps ask why.

She also reported that she and Cindy had had a lengthy conversation with the SDA president regarding the value of SDA membership. Earlier in the year, our chapter has discussed what we actually get from SDA for our \$75 dues besides access to the digital journal (the print edition being more costly). Many journal articles have been described as being of little value to us. A few of us---Caryl being one---participate in SDA-sponsored exhibits, for which membership is necessary.

Instead of a December meeting, we are invited to potluck at the Kala Point home of Caryl, who encourages a selection of menu items rather than one weighted heavily (no pun intended) to desserts. An email will follow from her.

Show and Tell

Eva, who lives in Sequim, said she learned of our chapter when our alphabet exhibit was in the Port Angeles library. She is a multimedia artist who taught for 20 years. Much of her work today is with glass and ceramic mosaics. A member of the Olympic Peninsula Art Association, she builds and promotes the local FLAG: Free Little Art Galleries (see sequimgazette.com/life/dungeness-business-features-areas-first-free-little-art-gallery/).

Ginny works with fused glass, and it's through her buttons, beads, bars and other small pieces that Leslie and Sue met her.

Debra showed two exquisite narrow pieces with applique, hand-painted muslin and embellishments.

Liisa showed an art quilt based on one of her husband Jerry's photographs of aspens and rocks. As a guide for the piece, she had Jerry's photo printed very large (oversize poster) by Sequim's In Graphic Detail (ingraphicdetail.com). As a black and white print, this was very economical. She reported she is also using her collection of African fabrics for collages, one of which she showed. She is also using a borrowed hand-felting machine to make backgrounds for hand stitching.

Linda showed a piece inspired by a gift store display in the La Conner quilt museum, where silk sari scraps had been cut into squares between a soluble stabilizer and then thread-painted together.

Evette showed another of her silk paintings, this one using soy wax. She discussed the issue of her paintings fading in the Fiber Habit window, where they are very popular.

Caryl, needing a break from representative images, said she spent recent months working with computer-generated images. Among the art quilts she showed were two made with the same image, one as created and the second much manipulated. She also reported that of the seven quilts she had sent to the Houston Quilt Festival, three sold.

Leslie has been working with a heat press and showed many botanical prints made on the silk linings of used kimonos that she and Sue have been deconstructing. Recommended: Jane Dunnewold's YouTube videos on the topic. She also showed several rice bags, which she describes as 9 x 30-inch art projects, most crafted by combining kimono and botanical printed fabrics and embellished with Ginny's glass. A dozen are at the Mad Hatter in Port Townsend.

Bess Anne, who with her husband bought property on Marrowstone Island in 2012 and later built a home there (which includes a heated garage and space available for messy SDA group projects), learned of SDA from Debra. She showed a quilt inspired by a photo of birch trees, featuring painting done with thickened Procion dyes. She has done a lot of work with church paraments.

Pat, who reminded us she has mostly worked with bird figures recently, showed a rabbit, beaded and embellished. She said she is also working on jewelry.

Annie displayed a collage featuring paintings of sandstone animal images that she had photographed.

Janice was wearing more of her necklaces, these made with beads upcycled from soda bottles.

Carol announced she has taken up weaving and showed a small piece made with wool she dyed herself.

Donna Lee described two small pieces, "Experiment 1" and "Experiment 2," one featuring vertical stitching and the other, stitching for a horizontal flow. Embellishments included sari silk. For "Landscape 1," she started with a photo sent to Spoonflower for printing.

Lynn, who moved to Sequim all of a month ago from Wisconsin, said she quilts, knits and felts. She showed projects from her "one-yard challenge."

Sue, inspired by a blue bead she bought from Ginny, said she cured her “blues” with an art quilt in blue tones. She also described how a woman on Marrowstone had acquired kimonos and vintage leather gloves that she had given to Sue to donate to the group (which made for much excitement at meeting conclusion)

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Carlson

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