

## **Kathleen Sharp, fiber artist, Tucson AZ**

*I use stitched work – pulling a threaded needle through layers – to participate in the age old act of mark-making as way of communicating. Working with narratives and motifs that are invented and selected, the resulting artwork is a fiber (or quilt) collage.*

*The making of a piece begins with a gathering process. Using oil pastels and torn paper, a flow of images, color, and markings are tracked in notebooks and journals. Soon a hunt begins for the right textile to place against another that will evoke exactly a tension or flow or rest point dictated by some inner force. Fabrics are then cut or torn into pieces to define line and form. Unexpected changes are made. A transformation occurs. What was once a disparate pile of fabric and notations now evokes place, event, feeling.*

*The underlying vision of the work is further supported in a labor intensive process of crafting the materials into a final quilt form. Pieces are collaged and stitched into a whole cloth for a top layer. A back layer is designed. Dense quilting stitches unify the layers and create a fingerprint signature. Installation procedures are defined. The work – which may range in size from 10” to more than 10’ -- is titled, signed, dated. It is finished.*

### Biographical:

Sharp’s process and ideas as a quilt artist have evolved over 40 years of studio work. Originally from North Carolina, she lived in the Washington DC area as a young adult where she worked in community mental health. In the late 1970’s she left that field to pursue art-making fulltime and soon began to apply earlier studies of fine art and surface design to quilt making. She continues independent art studies and has taught small classes while residing in Reston Virginia, Paris France, Monte Sereno CA and now in her Tucson AZ studio.

### Selected Exhibitions

California Art Quilt Revolution: Summer of Love to New Millennium, SJQuilt Museum, invitational 2016-17  
Art of Cloth, Sky Harbor Airport Museum, Phoenix AZ invitational 2015-16  
Journeys. Studio Art Quilt Associates, Jewish Center Gallery, Tucson AZ juried 2014  
Visions Art Museum, San Diego CA, Playing With a Full Deck, original invitational exhibit 2013  
Crossroads: National Fiber Art Exhibit, Santa Cruz Art League, juried 2012  
AZ Designer Craftsmen 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mesa Art Center, Mesa AZ, 2010  
Studio Art Quilt Associates, Shemer Art Center & Museum, Phoenix AZ 2009  
Craftsmanship 2008, ASU Gallery 100, Tempe AZ, juried  
Pieced Together, Phoenix Airport Museum, Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix 2007-08  
Southwest Fiber Art: Color of Light, Tohono Chul Park Gallery, Tucson AZ 2007  
Creative Force Then, SAQA invitational, Houston TX 2006  
Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac AZ, Arizona Designer Craftsmen, juried 2005  
Design With Heart, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe NM, 2004  
Women of Taste: Quilt Artists & Chefs, Smithsonian Institution, US tour 2000-03  
Full Deck Art Quilts, Smithsonian Institution, US tour 1995-2000  
California Design 2000, 1998, '96, '94, '92' Baulines Craft Guild/CA Craft Assn, juried  
Comments on the American 20th Century, Connell Gallery, Atlanta GA, 1999  
Dwellings, San Jose Museum of Quilts/Textiles, San Jose CA, guest juror & artist, 1997-98  
Quilts x 6, Robert Allen Fine Art, San Francisco CA, 1997-98  
Studio Quilt Invitational, Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis, 1995  
Art Quilt International, Ginza Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, 1994

### Selected publications:

The Art Quilt, Robert Shaw 1997

Artweek, Vol 27 #4, April 1996

Phoenix Home & Garden, Aug 2010

Fiberarts Magazine 2/98, 4/95, 11/91

American Craft, Oct/Nov 1991

Pioneering Quilt Artists 1960-1980: A New Direction in American Art, Sandra Sider, 2010

Art Quilts: Playing with a Full Deck, Pierce & Suit 1994

Fiberarts Design Book VI, V, IV, III '99, '95, '91, '87

Surface Design Journal, Spring 1992 (cover)

Living with Quilts: 50 Great American Quilts, George 1998

The Creative Force: exhibit catalog Studio Art Quilt Assn 2006

### Public Acquisitions include:

Stanford University, Palo Alto CA

Hewlett-Packard Corp, Palo Alto

Marble Associates, Cambridge MA

Alza Corporation, Palo Alto, CA

City of Sunnyvale, CA

Kaiser Permanente Medical, multiple locations

Associations: Studio Art Quilt Associates, professional founding artist member;  
AZ Designer Craftsmen, juried member; PaperWorks Sonoran Artists Collective, member

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Goat in Boat study



Pea Green Boat



Tribute

