

# Art Quilters Unlimited

February 2025

## President's Letter

Location, location, location! AQU's room rental fee at St. Hilary's continues to creep higher. We have some leads on meeting and workshop venues that might prove more affordable and welcome your suggestions for more. We are looking for a few member volunteers to join forces, visit potential locations in person, evaluate the pros and cons, and make a recommendation to the Board. Connie Blachut has signed up, and I'll be participating in the process. Whether you have a background in real estate, or are simply curious to see different venues in the greater Fort Myers area, please consider helping out with this short-term Committee assignment. Email [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com) for more information.

We're enjoying a true workshop bonanza, thanks to 2nd Vice President Lisa Gorski: Lisa's "Improv" workshop in January, Paula Lenahan's "Fine Line Design" in February, and Phyllis Cullen's "Layered Portraits" coming later this month. Not to mention we'll be treated to Susan Lenz at the AQU Retreat. I'm still digesting everything I learned last fall in Natalya Khorover's Home Portraits 3-day Zoom class. I decided to enter my piece in the ACSWF 60th Anniversary "Time Passages" juried show. The deadline for entry is March 12 (in case, like me, you've been dallying).

Hope to see a lot of you next week at the Winners Circle reception at the Tribby and AQU's annual DeStash Sale. I've been poking around in my closets looking for odds and ends that creative people like you can use.

*~Candie Frankel*



Candice McCaffery

## Membership



We all appreciated you being a part of AQU.

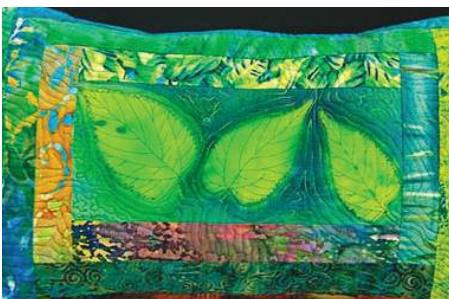
I will have our new membership cards at the next meeting, so look for me to get your card.

As of now, we have 52 paid members.

**New members are welcome to join at any time. Magnetic name tags available online too!**

## Featured Artist

**Candace McCaffery** learned sewing from her mother at early age. After graduating from college with a BS in forestry and wildlife ecology in 1973 she began exploring the technique of quilting. Candace has developed her own contemporary style and technique. Fiber reactive dyes, hand-painted, printed, hand-dyed, and marbilized fabrics are all elements of the original designs for her pillows and wall hangings. Frogs, lizards, turtles, and snakes are often immortalized in her art and reflect her love, respect, and humor for the natural world. Candace enjoys sharing her work with others and has won numerous awards including the "Best of Show".



# What's Happening

AQU Meetings are held at

St. Hilary's Church, 5011 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers | 10:00 - 10:30 Social Time | 10:30 Meeting Begins; Show & Tell

**March 8, 2025** **AQU's Annual De-stash Sale.**  
Membership Meeting & Sale details below. Reserve your table online.

**April 12, 2025** **Membership meeting.**  
Program: (updated) Funny faces with Johanna Roll.

**May 12, 2025** **Membership meeting.**  
Program: Brazilian Embroidery with Marci Mills

## AQU Workshop



**Phyllis Cullen**

**Layered Portraits ~ March 29, 2025**

**9 am to 4 pm**

**St. Hilary's Episcopal Church**



**Start Your Spring Cleaning Early, It's Almost Time for AQU's De-stash & Art Sale**

AQU members, it's time to unload or stock up at our annual thrift sale. Sell, swap and shop for all things sewing and fiber. And, you can sell your finished pieces too!

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**  
Set-up begins at 8:15  
Membership meeting 9:30 - 9:55  
Doors open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

NO TABLE FEE!

**Invite your friends too!**

**2025**

## BROWN BAG CHALLENGE

This year-long challenge is organized by Holly Watson. Participating members anonymously exchange small bags of fabrics and embellishments and create works of art from the materials they receive.

The big reveal and gifting happens at our Holiday Luncheon.

March 30 - materials due to Holly (or shop & drop off at March 8 Sale!)

April 12 or May 10 - bags will be handed out

Take about 8 hours to create your challenge piece. All the mystery materials in the bag must be represented in your piece. You may add items if needed to fill out your design. You are not required to use up all the materials or to return anything that is left over. Be adventurous and push those creative limits to create something amazing!

# What's Happening



## AQU Retreat

Christian Retreat Conference Center  
1200 Glory Way Blvd  
Bradenton, FL 34212  
March 16 - 20, 2025

Special Workshop with Susan Lenz  
more info at: [artquiltersunlimited.com](http://artquiltersunlimited.com)

Accommodations, double occupancy  
Breakfast & dinner  
Spacious workroom  
~ online registration is open ~

## ACSWFL Winners Circle

Sally Dutko, Meriul Easton  
and Jeri McKay  
will represent AQU at the  
ACSWFL Winners Circle Exhibit.  
Congrats ladies!

Reception: March 6, 2025 5:00 - 7:00  
Tribby Center for the Arts  
17281 On Par Boulevard  
Fort Myers, FL 33908

## AQU Exhibit

*glimmer*

*A collection of everyday joy,  
inspired by the "little things" that bring  
a sense of comfort & joy!*

**COCO Gallery, Estero**  
**May 2025**

## AQU Exhibit



*fibers*  
in paradise

**Arts for ACT**  
**September 2025**

## AQU Challenge & Exhibit

**All  
THE  
BUZZ**

**Tribby Arts Center**  
**May 2026**

## February Program



**Joyce Grande** prepared an impressive and informative program on edge finishes. She shared a vast array of techniques with plenty of examples from her own collection of beautiful pieces. Along with professional tips and tricks Joyce offered many solutions to finishing problems that sometimes leave us perplexed. How inspiring! Time to get to those UFOs bound and proudly displayed!



## Show & Tell



## February Workshop

**Paula Lehahan** led enthusiastic attendees through the process of creating unique pieces using prominent lines to highlight motifs. With this technique, the poppies theme was truly popping right off the fabric!



**Paula**



# AQU More to Know

## Exhibit Chair

Thank you to those who stepped up to help support specific events for 2025.

AQU would still love to have a "full-time" Exhibit Chair in place. Let us know if this is you!

## ACSFWL: Exhibit

**ACSFW 60th Anniversary Juried Show**

**"Time Passages"**

Coco Gallery Naples

Reception April 16, 2025

Visit their website for details [artcouncilswf.com](http://artcouncilswf.com)

## Co-Secretaries

AQU is seeking (2) co-secretaries to support the Board.

Duties include: record & publish notes from Board & Membership meetings.

Interested? email: [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com)

## ACSFWL: Help Wanted

**The Art Council is seeking important Board members**

\*President

\*First Vice President

\*Second Vice President

\*Estero Gallery Director

contact: [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com)

# You're Invited

To be our featured artist!

We'd love to hear your story and learn more about your art.

It's simple: send your bio and images to [aqumaura@gmail.com](mailto:aqumaura@gmail.com)

Don't be shy, inspire others with your amazing art journey.

Candie Frankel had nine winnings at this year's Florida State Fair! Here's her cache of ribbons!



Best in Show (1), First Place (2), Second Place(1), Third Place (2) and Honorable Mention (3)



Sometimes, creativity flows effortlessly;  
other times, it needs a little nudge.  
What's your favorite way to spark inspiration?

Find inspiration in

- ~nature
- ~fabrics
- ~new techniques
- ~architecture
- ~everyday items
- ~new materials

Keep going

- ~create consistently
- ~feel proud of every step
- ~connect to community
- ~encourage yourself

# Congratulations

## Your AQU Board

President: Candie Frankel  
1st Vice President: Holly Watson  
2nd Vice President: Lisa Gorski

Treasurer: Jef Farlow  
Secretary: Meriul Easton

Membership: Marci Mills  
Retreat: Lisa Gorski  
Website: Lisa Gorski & Candie Frankel

Newsletter & Email: Maura Ross  
Facebook: open  
Exhibit Chair: open

# ArtQuiltersUnlimited.com

**Web:** [artquiltersunlimited.com](http://artquiltersunlimited.com)

**Email:** [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com)

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