

President's Letter

With our retreat barely behind us (wasn't Susan Lenz positively awesome?) and our Phyllis Cullen class coming up tomorrow, I confess I didn't bother to unpack all my retreat sewing stuff. Why do it twice? I'll be toting that same jumbo bag of fabric with me tomorrow, along with my sewing machine and four photocopies of my approved image. I can't wait to learn this portrait technique from a pro! AQU member Debra Gluszcak is graciously hosting Phyllis at her home, and I've agreed to meet them at the Music Hall at 8:30 am to give Phyllis plenty of time to complete her setup. My plan is to watch closely and absorb everything.

Absorption. That is something artists do naturally, like breathing. We take in things visually, emotionally, without factoring or figuring. Our creative output follows a similar vein, flowing from a deep inner knowing. The second I start thinking about the color wheel, I know I have exhausted my creative energy for the day. Please don't get me wrong. Being able to critique why a design works or doesn't work will always be a useful tool, but we all know the wellspring lies elsewhere. Entering that intuitive zone, and staying there for long periods, is incredibly refreshing and, quite frankly, why I enjoy making art. To get a finished piece at the end is kind of a bonus!

AQU's season finale is *Glimmer*, a Coco Estero exhibit in May. The theme is everyday things that inspire comfort and joy. Jan Piscitelli is our coordinator, and she can receive your pieces at our April 12 meeting. I'm thinking small and whimsical.

Where is your imagination taking you? ~Candie Frankel



Susan Lenz

Membership

We all appreciated you being a part of AQU.

Membership cards at the next meeting, so look for me to get your card.

As of now, we have 53 paid members.

Reminder: Magnetic nametags are available online too!

**** Welcome new member Gail Klepper! ****



Featured Artist

Susan Lenz. Generally using needle and thread for self-expression, I work to articulate the accumulated memory inherent in discarded things. I seek a partnership with my materials, their purposes, values, and familiar associations. Memory, universal mortality, and personal legacy are central themes. Vintage and recycled materials are combined with meticulous handwork and self-guided, free-motion machine embroidery. I am drawn to textiles for their tactile qualities and often make work that is meant to touch and be touched.



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

April 12, 2025 **Membership meeting**

Program: (updated) Funky faces with Johanna Roll.


Art intake: "Glimmer" COCO Gallery, Estero May 2025

May 12, 2025 **Membership meeting**

Program: Brazilian Embroidery with Marci Mills

June 2025 **No meeting**

Time to work on your AQU exhibit pieces for *Glimmer*, *All the Buzz*.



FREE THREAD

We need 17 (or more) members to complete the YLI online thread survey. It only takes 5 minutes and AQU will be eligible for \$200 which will be distributed among our members.

Link is in the March 31st email.

AQU Exhibit



glimmer

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

COCO Gallery, Estero

Art Intake April 12 **May 2025**

DATE CHANGE **AQU Exhibit**



fibers

in paradise

Arts for ACT

September 2026

AQU Challenge & Exhibit



All THE BUZZ

Tribby Arts Center

May 2026

What's Happening



2025 Brown Bag Challenge

Bags will be anonymously distributed at the April 12 or May 10 meeting.

Once you receive your bag, 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!

The reveal of your new creation will take place at the December Holiday Party.

Congratulations!

Several of our AQU Members have affiliations with other local quilt groups as well, such as the Peace River Quilter's Guild. PRQG recently held their 18th Bicentennial Quilt Festival and here are three winners you may recognize from AQU;

Meriul Easton won or placed in six categories, **Sue Kreutsberg** won or placed in six categories and **Holly Watson** received an honorable mention for Art Quilt Original Design.



Meriul Easton



Sue Kreutsberg



Holly Watson

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!

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

*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

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

AQU More to Know

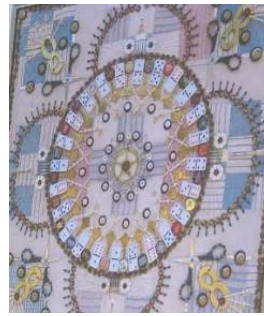
Fun & fantastic finds!
Members and guests
alike had a great time
finding treasures from a
vast assortment of
textiles tools, materials
and even finished goods
at the annual **De-stash
Sale** in March.



AQU March 2025 Retreat



The workroom was
buzzing and creative
juices flowing at this
year's retreat!



ACSWFL: Exhibit

ACSWF 60th Anniversary Juried Show

"Time Passages"

Coco Gallery Naples

Reception April 16, 2025

Visit their website for details artcouncilswf.com

ACSWFL: Help Wanted

The Art Council is seeking important Board members

*President

*First Vice President

*Second Vice President

*Estero Gallery Director

contact: aqumembers@gmail.com

Your AQU Board

President: Candie Frankel

1st Vice President: Holly Watson

2nd Vice President: Lisa Gorski

Treasurer: Jef Farlow-Dudek

Secretary: Open

Membership: Marci Mills

Retreat: Lisa Gorski

Website: Lisa Gorski
& Candie Frankel

Newsletter & Email: Maura Ross

Facebook: open

Exhibit Chair: open