

Art Quilters Unlimited

January 2024 Newsletter

Happy New Year 2024!

Preparations for a wonderful AQU 2024 have begun, and I am so excited when I look at the calendar. We begin with our exhibit "Fiber Finesse" at COCO Gallery, Estero. The reception is January 4, 5-7 p.m. All are welcome—bring your neighbors and friends so they can see what talent we have in our AQU membership.

Our very own Kevan Lunney will be presenting "A Curator Reveals All" at our January 13 Meeting. Learn about gallery hanging and prepping your work for optimal display.

With the success of the "Brown Bag Exchange" this year, Holly Watson will be accepting your 2024 "Brown Bags" at the next two meetings for our Second Annual Brown Bag Exchange.

Later this month, we will spend 3 days on an on-line workshop, "Home Portraits" transforming photographs into a 12" x 12" portrait using recyclables with fiber-artist Natalya Khorover. We do need more people to sign up, so encourage your friends to join the class and get the creative juices flowing for the year.

And with that we begin a creative 2024 AQU New Year. Happy New Year!

Love, Jef Farlow
President



Emerge, K. Kusmaul

Membership



Happy New Year AQU Members! We have so many things to look forward to and to be thankful for in 2024.

Let's start by giving a warm welcome to our newest member, Meriul Easton, from Punta Gorda!

Thank you, Jef Farlow, for inviting Meriul to join our group.

STATS: AQU currently has 59 members for 2023. Our 2024 Membership drive is in full swing, so please

remember to pay your \$45 yearly dues before the end of January! You can pay on our website or by writing a check and giving it to me at our next meeting on January 13. Nametags are available for ordering on our website (\$11).

-Shannan Maggied
Membership Chair

Featured Artist

Meet Florida-based Karol Kusmaul

Karol Kusmaul (b. 1954, Bloomington, Illinois) is an M.F.A. in painting candidate at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has practiced fiber art for many years, exhibiting in solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including Australia, England, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Czechoslovakia, and China. Specializing in collaged portraiture, Kusmaul also enjoys creating landscapes and still life work. Her work is soon to be shown at the Kachsiung Cultural Center in Taiwan, Visions Museum of Textile Art in San Diego, CA. and the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts in San Angelo, TX. She is the proud founder of an international group of fiber artists called Cloth in Common.

Kusmaul currently lives and works in **Inverness, FL**. <https://www.kquilt.com/>



We All Belong, K. Kusmaul



Chocolate & Cherries, K. Kusmaul



What's Happening

Meetings & Programs

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

- JAN 13, 2024 Program: A Curator Reveals All.** Learn about art gallery hanging systems and how to prepare your fiber art for optimal display. Presented by internationally exhibited artist and AQU member Kevan Lunney.
Artists: bring your complete or mostly complete 20th Century Artist pieces to be photographed for Tribby marketing materials! (Photos will be taken of the front only. Photos will be submitted to the Tribby curator for her consideration of placement in marketing pieces.)
- FEB 10, 2024 Program: Make-and-Take Beaded Sampler.** Create a sampler of four easy beading stitches that you can apply to your own design work. Supply list will be provided in advance. Presented by Connie Blachut.
Supply list: Seed beads - size 11 and 15. Beading thread (e.g. Nymo or Fire-line), size 10 beading needle, scissors.
*If you don't already own these items, Connie will have some to share. Everyone will also receive a small piece of beading foundation.
- MAR 9, 2024 Celebration! AQU's 20th Anniversary Luncheon.** Connor's Steakhouse.
Artists: 20th Century Challenge reveal and exhibit drop-off.
- APRIL 2024 Annual Rummage Sale,** details coming soon! Gather up your goodies to sell, trade or give away. Invite friends and fellow artists to shop with us!

Workshops

January 21, 27 & February 3 6 hours per day fee:\$160/pp

Live via Zoom

Invite a friend too!

*Would you like to create a memory like no other?
I will take you through the steps of creating a
portrait of your home just like the
commissioned artworks that I am known for.
You will use your own ephemera and photo-
graphs, and transform them into a meaningful
and special artwork.*

Natalya Khorover
"Home Portraits"



Tip for Natalya's class:

Start saving single use plastics. Ziplock bags, tea bags, veggie bags, foils, bubble wrap, coffee bags, etc.

More info online at artquiltersunlimited.com

Web: artquiltersunlimited.com

Email: aqumembers@gmail.com

 Art Quilters Unlimited

What's Happening - Exhibits

CALL TO ARTISTS - SPRING 2024 SHOWS

Artist as Muse

VENUE: Tribby Arts Center

17281 On Par Blvd

Fort Myers, FL 33908

THEME: Artist as Muse; 20th Anniversary Challenge

**ART DUE: March 9 Anniversary Luncheon or
April 5 10:00 at the Gallery**

SHOW DATES: April 12- June 22, 2024

RECEPTIONS: April 11; 5:00 - 7:00 PM

ART FOR SALE: Optional

SIZE: Max 40" in height or width. Ready to hang.

FEE: None! AQU's anniversary gift to you!

ART RETURN: July 13 Membership Meeting

*All participants should already have their "artist muse" assignment.

Inspirational images:



Pablo Picasso inspiration



Fiber interpretation



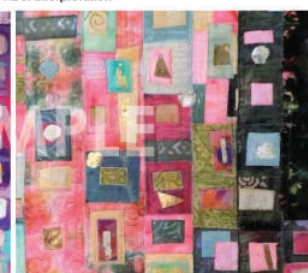
Jeff Koons inspiration



Fiber interpretation



Jasper Johns inspiration



Fiber interpretation

Fiberlicious

VENUE: Marco Island Center for the Arts

1010 Winterberry Drive

Marco Island, FL 34145

THEME: Fiberlicious

**ART DUE: April 13 Membership Meeting or
May 2 9:00 at the Gallery**

SHOW DATES: May 6 - July 3, 2024

RECEPTIONS: May 14 and June 11; 5:00 - 7:00 PM

ART FOR SALE: Yes, required

SIZE: Max 40" in height or width. Ready to hang.

FEE: \$35.00 up to 3 pieces; 3pcs max per artist

ART RETURN: July 13 Membership Meeting or
July 2 9:00 at the Gallery

Images from AQU's 2021 Show:



Art intake forms & registration on-line

Web: artquiltersunlimited.com

Email: aqumembers@gmail.com



Art Quilters Unlimited

What's Happening - Exhibits

FALL 2024 SHOW

Fiberlicious

VENUE: Cape Coral Art Center
4533 Coronado Pkwy
Cape Coral, FL 33904

THEME: Fiberlicious

**ART DUE: July 13 Membership Meeting or
by August 26**

SHOW DATES: Sept 6 - 26, 2024

RECEPTION: September 13 / 5:00 - 7:00 PM

ART FOR SALE: Yes, requested

SIZE: Maximum 60" high and/or 36" wide;
ready to hang. Pedestals for 3D pcs available.

FEE: One pc/\$5.00 Two pcs/\$10.00 (max 2 pcs)

ART RETURN: October 12 Membership Meeting

CONTACT: Pam: pamelaj.richardson@gmail.com



Art intake forms &
registration on-line

CURRENT SHOW

Fiber Finesse

Opens in just a few days!

COCO Gallery

8074 Mediterranean
Estero, FL 33928

January 4 - 24, 2024

*Join us at the reception on
January 4 from 5:00 - 7:00
or stop in during gallery hours.*

Note: As the exhibiting organization, we are asked to provide simple cold appetizers/desserts (finger foods) for exhibit guests. The gallery provides wine, sodas, and water. If you wish to bring something, bring it when you come to the reception.

**WANTED: AQU needs an exhibit chair
to support the 2025 art season**



This position is mainly administrative:
coordinate exhibit details
with galleries, facilitates
contracts with the Board,
provides info for the AQU

website, and oversees the logistics of
gathering and mounting the exhibit.

And you have options!

You may choose to organize all of the 2025
exhibits or choose a single venue to coordi-
nate.

Email: aqumembers@gmail.com

More to Know

20th Anniversary

Celebratory Luncheon

Connor's Steakhouse

March 9, 2024 11:00 - 3:00

\$35.00 pp

RSVP & choose
your entree online

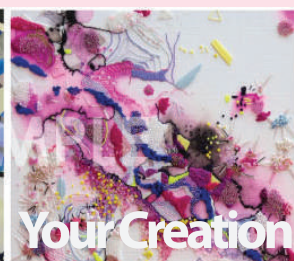


20th Anniversary

Challenge: Artist as Muse



Wassily Kandinsky Inspiration



Fiber Interpretation

Pieces due at March Luncheon

Retreat 2024

meals ~ creative time ~ fun ~ relaxation

Daysprings in Ellenton, FL
has been booked for our 2024 retreat

March 21-25, 2024

~Two meals per day
~Serene grounds

~Spacious work area
~ Demonstrations

Single: \$670.00 Double: \$470.00 pp

Reserve your place today! artquiltersunlimited.com



Consider pitching in for 2024



AQU has an immediate need for (two)
substitute representatives for the
Art Council of Southwest Florida.
Meetings take place during season so
part-time residents are welcome.
Interested? aqumembers@gmail.com

December Holiday Party

Gift Exchange



December Holiday Party



Brown Bag Challenge

Organized by Holly Watson



Change of address or contact info? email updates to aqumembers@gmail.com

If you'd like to share an accomplishment, event or other news email aqumaura@gmail.com

Web: artquiltersunlimited.com

Email: aqumembers@gmail.com

 Art Quilters Unlimited

Brown Bag Behind the Scenes - the original scraps...



Member's Stories



Heading to the State Fair submit by Candie Frankel

Last February, Fred and I spent a day at the Lee County Fair. We especially enjoyed the 4-H goat exhibition. The personalities of the goats and their young handlers were a delight. We spectators sat in bleachers under roof, cooling fans set on high, and plenty of once-a-year-it's-okay-to-eat-it fair food on tap.

What does this have to do with art quilting? At that time, I was working on Fort Myers Cattle Drive, and horses and livestock were on my mind. The county fair needlework exhibit is not an art quilt venue, but what about the Florida State Fair? I checked it out online. Photos looked good. The entry rules in the quilting "workbook" included an art quilt category. I mentally filed this info. This past October, I filled out the 2024 Florida State Fair online form, registering eight art quilts and paying a modest \$5 entry fee per quilt. In return, I get a one-day complementary adult ticket to the fair. Fred and I will be driving up to Tampa this month to deliver my pieces in person, so throw in a little getaway with my husband. Will report on the next phase of this unfolding venture in the February newsletter.



For My Granddaughter

submit by Holly Watson

I made this for my granddaughter Megan who is going to Northwestern for her PHD in working with metals. She has what she calls her little art wall with my little art quilts. I made this for her for Christmas. I read that it was PI Squared block, Lowell says Fibonacci series. I used fabrics from Cherrywood Fabrics in northern Minnesota, they look like suede. Thought I'd share before mailing it. (dimensions 7.5" x 45)

for fun

Me: looking at the fancy fabric I got 5 years ago that are WAY too special to use.



Board Meeting

AQU Minutes for Special Session Board Meeting, December 7, 2023

Officers: Jef Farlow, Marci Mills, Candie Frankel, Lisa Gorski, Faith Pfalz

Chair: Shannan Maggied

Jef explained that the moneys paid through Square are not being transferred to the general bank account. She will visit the bank and get it straightened out. She has sent the financials to Marci and Marci is working on it. Jef also hopes to get a updated financial report to the board members prior to the January 2024 meeting. We discussed Square and Jef says she just gets a listing of dollar amounts, not the payor or what was being paid for. Lisa and Candie spoke. Candie is editing the website pages for text. Lisa will then do the design and layouts. We had a discussion about membership dues. We agreed that the website does not need to explicitly mention the reduced dues if someone joins after July. We will honor the \$22.50 but don't want to encourage anyone to postpone paying their dues because of it.

We discussed the anniversary party and I advised we had gotten five responses from former members. Only one of them advised that she will attend. We can send another message out when the date gets closer. The website is still in progress and Candie will send updates as things are added.

Lisa mentioned that she is not getting e-mails regarding Natalya's class. Currently we only have six signed up. We need to get more people or we will have to cancel. We will push the class for more interest.

Candie said that there are twelve people with 38 art works signed up for the Coco gallery exhibit. We would like to have more in the show.

It was agreed that Marci, Jef, and Lisa will work on the Square issue.

It was brought to the board's attention that Betty Busby is teaching on the east coast of Florida and perhaps we can have her come teach for us. Lisa will contact Betty to see if there is interest. Lisa reminded us that we have a hard time filling live classes to capacity. We need to have a discussion with the membership to get their interest in zoom classes versus live classes.

Respectfully,

Faith Pfalz, Secretary

2024 Resolutions for Creatives

Every year, people declare their New Year's resolutions and are determined to make the coming 365 days their best yet. As a creative person you may struggle to keep on track so here's a few New Year's resolution ideas that artists, quilters, and designers of all kinds can easily adopt.

1. Keep track of your goals, make a list.
2. Make time for your art.
3. Finish a small project.
4. Network with other creatives, in person!
5. Attend more galleries.
6. Read more books that compliment your talent.
7. Join a social media group (AQU is on FaceBook).
8. Attend an art/creative conference.
9. Give back to your community, artistically!
10. Explore a new facet of your art genre.
11. Be afraid of something new, but do it anyway.
12. Take care of your mind, body and soul.

Your AQU Board

President: Jef Farlow

1st Vice President: Candie Frankel

2nd Vice President: Holly Watson

Secretary: Faith Pfalz

Treasurer: Marci Mills

Website: Lisa Gorski

Membership: Shannan Maggied

Retreat: Lisa Gorski

Delegate: Pam Richardson

Newsletter & Email:

Maura Ross

Exhibit Chair: open



2024 Events Recap

January 3 - artwork drop-off at COCO Gallery, Estero at 9:30

January 4 - COCO Gallery Reception 5:00 - 7:00

January 2024 - Natalya Khorover "Home Portrait" Workshop

March 21 -25, 2024 - AQU Retreat at Daysprings

March 9, 2024 - AQU 20th Anniversary Luncheon, Connors Restaurant

March 9, 2024 - 20th Century artist challenge pieces due

April 2024 - AQU Rummage Sale

April 12 - June 22, 2024 - Tribby Arts Center - 20th Century Artist Exhibit

April 2024 - Marco Island art pieces due

May 6 - July 2 - Marco Island Center for the Arts exhibit - "Fiberlicious"

Sept 6 - Sept 26 - Cape Coral Arts Center - "Fiberlicious"



**So get those creative juices flowing and those fingers sewing!
Let's show SWFL what we've got!**