

# Art Quilters Unlimited

May 2023 Newsletter



Eat your Wheaties friends!

Twenty-twenty-four is shaping up to be a jam packed year! Your Board Members and Chairs are busy booking events, workshops, classes, retreats and exhibits. Check out some of the up-coming events in this newsletter.



by Amy

## Membership

Great News! AQU has gained NINE new members since January. We are so fortunate to add these new friends who each bring their own unique talents to share with our group. Don't forget, we have lovely informational brochures available at the sign-in table that you can take along to continue to spread the word about AQU.

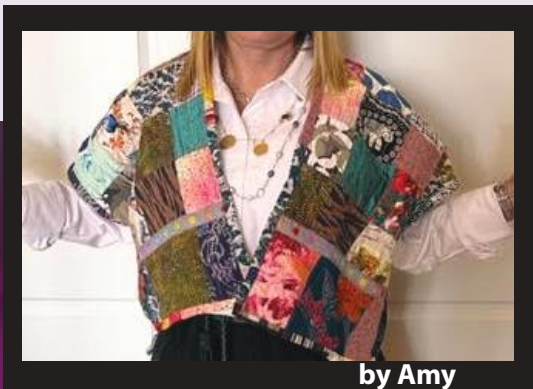
Since it's easier to get to know each other when we can put a face to a name, all members are encouraged to wear their AQU name tags each time we meet. If you don't have one, they are \$11 and can be easily ordered via the AQU website under the "Join" tab. You can also find our complete Membership Contact List under the "Members Only" portion of our website.

## Featured Artist

### Meet Amy Lea Blicher

I am an Artist/Quilter. Art has always been a part of my life. It gives me joy. I have a BFA and am a former Art Teacher. I have an Art background, not a Sewing background. I have combined my love of Art with my love of Quilting. I have painted fabric, added batting and backing and then have Quilted my paintings. I also enjoy creating Crazy Quilts. I work on a Muslin foundation, use no patterns, and machine embellish with decorative stitching. My Crazy Quilts have more of a fabric collage feel to them. During Quarantine, I have started creating Kimonos ( and coats and jackets). This was inspired by an online Facebook group called "Crazy Quilt Diva's Crazy Couture Challenge 2021". So, I had always wanted to make a kimono, so I started making Crazy Quilt Kimonos. I worked my blocks onto Muslin pattern pieces. The materials used were cotton , muslin, and thread. My Artwork has evolved.

*check out more of Amy's creations at the end of the newsletters*



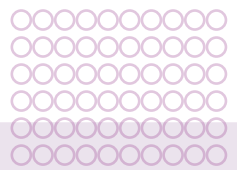
by Amy



Amy & Model



# 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

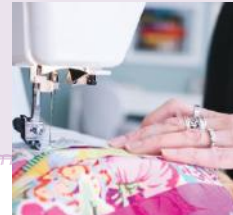
**May 13** Paper & Fabric Beads with Lisa Gorski

### May Program Materials List

- Fancy paper or fabric (Lisa will bring some also)
- Embellishments (lace, wire, yarn, beads, etc.)
- Quilling or rolling tool (if you have one; Lisa will bring some to share)
- Paper scissors & Fabric scissors
- Elmer's glue or a glue stick
- Small ziplock bag

**July 8** Make a triangle zipper bag with Jeri McKay

**Sept 9** Tips & tricks for creative productivity with Paulette Karlin



## Workshops

More info and registration online at [artquiltersunlimited.com](http://artquiltersunlimited.com)

**Sept 16 & 20**



*registration is open*

Live Zoom  
Lyric Kinard's Abstract-a-licious

LYRIC KINARD



Estero Library Exhibit

## Exhibits, Retreat & More

### Happening Now

By the time you read this, AQU's "Small Works" exhibit will be up and running. This exhibit showcases the "unlimited" side of AQU: fiber manipulation, beading, embroidery, embellishment, sculpting, dyeing. You'll find whimsy and sophistication—and we love the accidental blue palette with red accents! Thanks to member artists Connie Blachut, Candie Delnore, Candie Frankel, Jan Piscitelli, Maura Ross, Pamela Richardson, and Joanne Wiest for participating. The exhibit runs through May 31 during library hours. Stop by if you are in the neighborhood: South County Regional Library, 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero FL 33928.

# In Other News...

## Retreat 2024

Daysprings in Ellenton, FL has been booked for our 2024 retreat ~ March 21-25, 2024.

All the details to follow later this year.



## April Rummage Sale



Somehow, we all crammed into the Music Hall at St. Hilary's for a fun sale and giveaway. Thanks to all who participated: Sara Blythe, Cheryl Costley, Candie Delnore, Sally Dutko, Sue Kreutzberg, Shannan Maggied, Jean Mau, Jeri McKay, Marci Mills, Jan Piscitelli, Pam Richardson, Maura Ross, Emily Smith, and Joanne Wiest. And to our organizer, Candie Frankel, thank you. The array of goodies was staggering, the inspiration priceless. For 2024, we're looking at the big hall. Stay tuned!

## The Giveaway Continues...

AQU was recently contacted by art quilter Joyce Murrin of Naples. Joyce is "retiring," and she wanted to donate her fabric stash and notions to fellow quilt artists and fiber enthusiasts. She picked us! Beginning with our May membership meeting, Joyce's items will be displayed and available for the taking. Everything is currently at Candie Frankel's house, and Candie expects the giveaway to continue for two or three meetings.

Also selling: Bernina 440 QE for sale. This machine is 20 years old and test-drives beautifully. For more information on this machine, contact Candie Frankel, 914-316-8914



Joyce and Candie F.

## About Joyce

Joyce's original quilt designs have been exhibited in the U.S, Europe, and Japan. Joyce taught and lectured nationally, has exhibited in 195 juried and invitational shows, and won 93 wards. Her quilts are in private collections and in the National Quilt Museum permanent collection.

## 2023 CHALLENGES

### December

The Brown Bag Coordinator (Holly), will disperse the bags at the May meeting.

Guidelines: You can add fabric, embellishments, or whatever! The participants have until the December Christmas Party to finish an art piece for the original owner. Do not share what you received in your brown bag with others. Art pieces can be any shape or size; a purse, or any type of art piece you want to create.

It will be a fun show and tell at the Christmas Party.

This is a commitment you are making, so please don't disappoint someone whose fabric you have by not finishing your art piece for them. Have fun, *Holly Watson*



COUNTDOWN:  
7 months 'til due

# More to Know



## Hold the phone!

THREE shows (and counting) coming in 2024!

We are working with area galleries to showcase our inspired creations around our SWFL. SO far the plans look like this, but additional details will follow:

January 2024 - Coco Gallery, Estero

April thru June 2024 - Tribby Arts Center - theme: 20th Century Artists

May thru June 2024 - Marco Island Center for the Arts - theme: TBD



Coco Gallery

Theme: TDB

Art Due: December 2023



Tribby Arts Center

Theme: 20th Century Artists

Art Due: February 2024

Show: April 12 thru June 22, 2024



Marco Isl. Arts Center

Theme: TBD

Art Due: March 2024

Show: May 6 thur July 2, 2024

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

Volunteers wanted: art collection, set-up, take-down. Interested? email [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com)

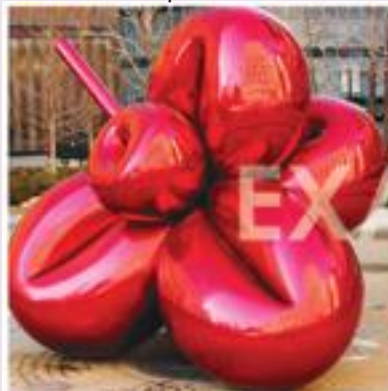
## 20 in '24

AQU will be turning twenty years young in 2024! Let us know your ideas on how to celebrate this wonderful milestone at [aqumembers@gmail.com](mailto:aqumembers@gmail.com) And here's an exciting challenge to kick off the events:

### "The 20th Challenge"

- \*Participants will be randomly assigned a 20th century artist (i.e. Pablo Picasso).
- \*Participants will reinterpret & recreate one of that artist's works (of their choosing) in fiber form.
- \*Any size, any fiber/textile, any technique.
- \***COUNTDOWN: 9 months 'til due date**

Jeff Koons inspiration



Textile interpretation



# This 'n' That

## AQU WORKSHOP

Lyric Kinard

"Abstract-a-licious"

"My goal as an artist is to remind humanity of the strength it possesses. In a many layered process I gather intriguing materials both old and new. I marvel as plain cloth is transformed as it absorbs dye and paint. The meditative process of mark making with thread allows me to truly see & understand my materials & physically connect with my subject. Slowly order emerges from disarray, beauty from chaos."



## Art Community Connections

AQU needs representatives for the Art Council of Southwest Florida starting in October 2023.

The ideal scenario would be to have 2 reps + 2 substitutes.

### What does it entail you ask?

Attend monthly meetings, October thru April - perfect for snowbirds too!

Meetings are an hour long and start at 10:00, the location varies depending on the current host group

Be the liaison between ACSWFL & AQU

Connect with other artists from the area

This membership secures our opportunities to show at the Coco Gallery

### ACSWFL Mission Statement:

*The Art Council of Southwest Florida is dedicated to expanding the range of art appreciation and creative art opportunities for the residents of south Florida and the many thousands of people from all over the world who visit here annually.*



INTERESTED: [aquamembers@gmail.com](mailto:aquamembers@gmail.com)

MORE INFO: [www.artcouncilswf.com](http://www.artcouncilswf.com)

## ACSWFL Report - April 19, 2023 Meeting

*Attended by Candie Frankel as the temporary AQU Representative.*

\*The info that a league president cannot be a rep to ACSWFL is incorrect. AQU can designate any member to represent AQU at these meetings. Two or more delegates can attend. If something comes up for a vote, each league/guild gets only 1 vote.

\*Next meeting will be in October 2023. The meetings are held monthly in season in Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr. (Differs from the ACSWFL website, which says meetings start in Nov.)

\*They are looking for member guilds/leagues to host the meetings. Different host each month. Nobody pressured me, but it may be our turn to sign up for this.

\*Treasurer report for March notes low sales for COCO Naples. This is due to time lost when gallery was relocated to food court area. Lease terms are the same. Under Transfers, the \$14,000 was put into an interest-bearing CD.

\*The Board discussed advertising options, opportunities for free publicity.

\*AQU is on deck for a January 2024 exhibit at COCO Estero location; Judy Fuchs (director of gallery) is putting next season's calendar together now. We should get official word soon.

\*Deadline for the Winner's Circle submissions is May 15. We should make sure Paula and Holly can make deadline. They should indicate they are in AQU on the form. Commission split for any sales at this show is 70/30

\*For AQU happenings, I noted our retreat, Naples Quilt Show, Sheila Frampton-Cooper Zoom class, May Small Works exhibit.

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

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

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# This 'n' That

## AQU Financials

The Board will be reviewing finalize documents and budget on May 8th. Information will be emailed to the group after that meeting.

## More Inspiration

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Amy up-cycled some of her painted and quilted wall hanging into lovely and vibrant kimonos

## Your AQU Board

President: Jef Farlow

1st Vice President: Candie Frankel

2nd Vice President: Holly Watson

Co-Secretary: Faith Pfalz

Co-Secretary: Caren Lyell

Treasurer: Marci Mills

Membership: Shannan Maggied

Retreat: Lisa Gorski

Delegate: Pam Richardson

Newsletter: Maura Ross

Exhibit Chair: open

**Change of address or contact info? email updates to** [aquamembers@gmail.com](mailto:aquamembers@gmail.com)

**If you'd like to share an accomplishment, event or other news email** [aquamaura@gmail.com](mailto:aquamaura@gmail.com)

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

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

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