

Art Raffle Quilt

Cass Bowen put out a call for art quilters who might be interested in a project. She asked that we produce the first ever Art Quilt to be raffled in addition to our traditional quilt. Cass said she had always wanted to own an Art Quilt by one of us and with the chance of a raffle it could happen. Some general discussion and decisions were made that first meeting and a next meeting was scheduled at my studio.

At the first meeting we talked about ways to create group quilts. We considered what Cass had said and decided we needed to let each artist work individually in her own style with a common theme. We chose palm trees as our theme.

One month later we all gathered with photos and drawings of palm trees from every possible angle. We each had a unique way of looking at palm trees. That's a good thing. We made decisions on size and shape of each artists work. We made a quick trip to Cotton Patch for a turquoise and a green fabric that was to be included in each artists work.

Tops were completed during the month before the next meeting. At this meeting, after some discussion about how to combine out pieces, we decided that each artist would quilt their own piece. Quilting is as much a part of the individual style as the piecing and or appliqué.

“Make visual decisions visually” Often matters were discussed via e-mail but we found that we just needed to get together to “see” what it all looked like together. Leslie, Pam, and Roberta brought hand dyed fabrics to use for background. After much moving around, folding back, and trimming up, we found the best layout for all our works of art. Leslie and I pieced the background. Leslie quilted the design lines that would be visible and quilted a grid in the areas where the pieces would be attached.

Twisted yarn, in colors to compliment the background, was added around each piece. I did the binding after searching the hand dyed scraps to find matching strips. Again twisted yarn was added for continuity.

Janine and Pam worked together to produce the label. Roberta had professional photos done. Teddy Pruitt appraised our piece at \$2,465.00.

This project was both a challenge and a joy. I wish to personally thank Leslie Hall, Pam Morris, Roberta Chalfy Miller, and Janine Ward for their work on this project. We hope to raise funds to support our guild and that the winner of “Visions of Palms” takes great pleasure in owning our work of art.

**Betty Ann Seeman,
Chairperson, Art Quilt Project**