

# Fiber Optix: Recent Work

## Virtual Opening - April 18, 2020

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### Q+A with Sharon C. Robinson

**Tell us about first learning to sew. Who did you learn from? How old were you?**

I had the typical (for the 1970's) home ec classes in high school, but I was never very good. Quilting became popular as part of the "earth mama" generation, and I designed several quilts and even finished a couple, but they didn't really hold up to a lot of use.

**What is your creative space like? Can you show us around?**

I work in one half of a daylight basement space. One wall is floor-to-ceiling shelving for fabric. One is a design wall, and another is a cork board covered with inspiration photos and other trinkets. Bookshelves and supply storage divide my half of the room (sometimes) from the grandkids' play area. The center is a 3ft x 8 ft work table.

**What artists influence you?**

Miro and Kandinsky are far and away my favorite artists. I also love Paul Klee, Joan Mitchell, Sean Scully and Frida Kahlo. The Bauhaus weavers Gunta Stolz and Anni Albers inspire me. As far as quilt artists, Nancy Crow has been a huge influence as well as my primary teacher. Other art quilters I admire are Sue Benner, Rosalie Dace, and Judy Kirpich.

**Do you have a favorite piece you have made? Why is it your favorite?**

The piece *Rockers #4: Shattered* (in this exhibit) is my current favorite. I think I love it because it actually came out pretty much as I'd envisioned. I really labored over achieving the idea; there was a LOT of ripping out and re-sewing involved! Although my work is purely abstract, I still try to convey a feeling or emotion with a piece, and I think my attempt to represent what "shattered" might feel like was pretty successful.

**Do you have a least favorite project? Why?**

Oh, gosh, I have a lot of those - mostly they are unfinished. My projects most often fail when my love for complex compositions runs into my limited sewing abilities. I end up creating something that looks great but is overly complex to actually construct. I'm gradually learning how to simplify, and of course always learning to sew better!

**How are you staying busy during social distancing? Can you recommend any projects to our opening's virtual guests?**

I retired in mid-February, and for a long time, my dream was to mostly stay home and enjoy time in my studio and garden. That's mostly what I've done, although I'm sewing more masks and fewer quilts at the moment. So social distancing has not had much of a toll on me other than preventing some in-person gatherings of friends, and forcing me to learn Skype, Zoom, and Go-To-Meeting. Oh, and I really need a haircut!

For inspiration, the Google Arts and Culture project has teamed up with over 2,500 museums to provide virtual tours of their collections. And for fun, you can take an Arts and Culture selfie and find out what famous artwork portrait you most look like.

[www.fiberoptix.com](http://www.fiberoptix.com)

Artwork on Display

Proun #4, 2018

Proun #5: Goldbar, 2018

Rockers #4: Shattered, 2018