

Quilt Visions 2020

Meet Karol Kusmaul

Inverness, Florida



www.kquilt.com

Artwork on Display

Flirting

Karol Kusmaul's work has been published in numerous books and magazines and shown in many juried shows throughout the world. She has had several solo exhibits including College of Central Florida, Dunedin Fine Art Center, Art Center of Citrus County, the World Art Quilt Show in Tampa, and the International Quilt Festival in Houston.

Karol has been a traditional quilter since making her first quilt in 1978. Her most recent work is making Art quilts and reflects her delight in pattern, contrast and variety. Themes relate to: faces, figures, travel scenery, issues of aging and dementia as experienced by her parents. She also enjoys photography, which helps provide direction in her fiber work.

She states, "As a retired Art teacher, I am delighted to finally have the time to spend making my own artwork. (I do love that I had the opportunity to work with young artists for so many years.) As a new member of the world of Art quilters, I look forward to learning from other quilt artists."

"I especially enjoy making fabric collages and I seem to gravitate toward people as subject matter. I am crazy about collecting fabrics – particularly repurposed thrift store fabric hunting. I find that I take pleasure in all the facets of the quilt making process, from the creative beginnings, the relaxing handwork, the reworking, critical evaluation, to the binding, labeling and hanging, and then seeing people's reactions and explaining the story!"

Karol is currently working on a quilt about her community of artist friends. For more information, please visit www.clothincommon.com.

Artist Statement

Whenever I teach my Face Forward portrait classes, I begin a composition right along with my students. This helps me demonstrate and guide students through the composition process. I then later complete the portrait as time allows.

Flirting began as a portrait of a single female. As the design progressed, the strong orange shape in the right foreground demanded to be a second figure. My girl started with eyes that gave her a MEAN look. I fiddled with the brows and eye parts until she looked more friendly, yet she has a guarded appearance.

Much of my fabric collection is shirts, skirts, pants, and dresses that I have discovered in thrift store treasure hunts. The hair in *Flirting's* main character is from a bird print blouse purchased in Sarasota, Florida just before my class there began!

I truly enjoy pattern, and placing patterns in unexpected places. Contrast is also important in my work, which is improvisationally collaged. I generally hand applique and either hand or machine quilt my art pieces. There is of course a story behind every portrait I create.

Q+A

What was your route to becoming an artist?

Meet Karol Kusmaul - continued

Making art is something I have always enjoyed doing. I had good art teachers who helped me find success. I ended up becoming an art teacher for 32 years. Now retired, I have time to actually work on my art.

Do you use a sketchbook?

No. I rarely sketch first. I brainstorm on a scrap of paper, choose a palette, and begin!

Advice for an aspiring textile artist?

Establish a place to work and store your materials and tools. Give your art as much time as you possibly can. Forgo sleep. Oh, and UPCYCLE!

Equipment I could not live without?

Needles and thread.