

# Quilt Visions 2020

Meet Laura Fogg  
Ukiah, California



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## Artwork on Display

*One Person's Junk*

I have been an art quilter for twenty years. My work is shown regularly in major quilt shows across the country, including *Quilt Visions* and *Quilt National*, and many pieces have won cash awards. Articles and photos of my work have been published in most of the quilting magazines in the US, as well as in a number of national and international books and calendars on art quilting. I have also been featured in two documentary films- one by the American Quilters Society and the other by Lifetime TV in conjunction with the *Vagina Monologues* production.

I am the recipient of two art-related awards in Mendocino County- the Women's Art: Women's Vision award in 2008 and the Art Champion award in 2012.

I have lived all of my adult life in Mendocino County, where I worked for 30 years as a teacher of the visually impaired. In that capacity, I won the Schoolmaster of the Year award in 2011. I am now retired and happily watching five grandchildren grow up.

I was an art history major at University of California, Berkeley, with a minor in art, and I have a Masters in Education from California State University, San Francisco. I am mostly a self-taught quilter, though I studied briefly under Natasha Kempers-Kullen many years ago. I currently lecture and teach art quilting classes and retreats throughout northern California.

## Artist Statement

I'm a product of UC Berkeley where, in addition to marching in the streets to try to end the Vietnam War, we invented community recycling. To this day I recycle EVERYTHING, from bottles to clothing to furniture and construction materials. Urban Ore in Berkeley is one of my favorite places to visit, and I was drawn to the visual beauty of their stacks of old glass doors. I gazed into the depths of shattered, spiderwebby panes, wondering at the history of the once-elegant doors, and realized that I could see my reflection in the layers as I imagined a future use for these relics of a bygone time. My challenge was to capture that reflected mystery in fabric.

## Q+A

### What inspires your work at this time?

I am always inspired by what is going on around me. Sometimes it's the sheer beauty of this place where I live, but more recently I find myself processing and reacting to social and environmental issues.

I have a lot of feelings, deep concerns and opinions about many things that are going on, and doing art helps me both come to terms with these complicated reactions and express them to the world. My art gives me a voice.

### What was your route to becoming an artist?

It was not a direct route. I have always loved making art, and dabbled halfheartedly in every medium known to humankind before I discovered art quilting at the age of 50. Working full time and single parenting hadn't left me much free time in the past, but with

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my kids recently launched and my move away from an ancient farmhouse on acreage, there was finally an opportunity for me to take my new passion and run with it. Now I'm retired and making up for all those artless years.

### **Do you use a sketchbook? If not, what preparatory work do you do?**

I never sketch a concept for a quilt. It's all in my head, on more of an emotional than visual level, with an assortment of photos taped to the wall in my studio for inspiration as I work on various aspects of my unfolding piece. If I make a sketch or pattern and try to copy it, the results feel still and unemotional. The excitement for me is in the process of freehand cutting fabric and watching the shapes and layers build up to tell my story.

### **What advice would you give to an aspiring textile artist?**

JUST DO IT!!! I teach (well...taught...lots of classes before this pandemic), and I always encourage students to jump in without overthinking. I firmly believe that every one of us has some kind of unique and special art sense, and it's the experiments and surprises that delight us...not the copying of somebody else's already discovered vision.

### **What piece of equipment or tool could you not live without?**

I totally LOVE my Sweet Sixteen!