

Quilt Visions 2020

Meet Linda Beach

Folsom, Louisiana



www.lindabeachartquilts.com

Artwork on Display

Fall Confetti

Linda Beach is an award-winning fiber artist whose nature inspired pieces have been commissioned for many public art installations as well as juried into nationally prominent exhibitions. The depth and complexity she achieves in her quilts have led to their inclusion in several notable publications and books as well as making her a sought-after lecturer and teacher. Among her many accomplishments are serving as an Artist-in-Residence at Denali, Rocky Mountain, Acadia and Mesa Verde National Parks as well as on the Board of Directors of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA). Linda currently works out of her studio just outside of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Artist Statement

A love of nature and its beauty provide the inspirational direction for my art. The challenge of using line, shape, color and contrast to interpret what I see is my objective. If I create something that will evoke emotion in the viewer, then I have truly succeeded.

The process begins with a concept which I then transform into a full-size drawing or pattern, each line representing a seam line between two pieces of cloth. The possibilities and limitations of the piecing process are integral parts of the design. The pattern is then cut apart, with each piece of paper being used as a template for a single piece of fabric. The pieces are then joined by machine to become a pieced "top" over a layer of batting and a backing fabric. Finally, I choose the pattern of my quilting stitches to enhance the scene. This completes the interpretation and adds an extra dimension of texture to the finished piece.

Q+A

What inspires your work at this time?

Nature. Always nature and the outdoors. I enjoy spending time in my garden, bicycling and kayaking to name a few things. Being outdoors relaxes me and sets my mind and imagination free.

What was your route to becoming an artist?

I started making traditional quilts as a hobby then progressed to making more original patterns. When I discovered art quilts, I knew I had found what I was looking for. The first time I saw a display of art quilts on the walls of my local coffee shop, I decided I wanted to display my work as well. At that point it was just a hobby but I received such positive feedback from showing my work that I felt encouraged to enter exhibitions.

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

No, I don't use a sketchbook. I generally work out most of an idea in my head, pulling potential fabrics from my stash. With the fabrics in front of me, I will make a small rough pencil sketch to work out proportions and values.

Meet Linda Beach - continued

What advice would you give to an aspiring textile artist?

Find out what truly inspires you and consistently work at it. If possible, find a group of peers and form a critique group.

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

My sewing machine.