

# Quilt Visions 2020

Meet Marianne Burr

Coupeville, Washington



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

## Artwork on Display

*Choices*

As an independent studio artist, Marianne Burr has been able to follow her own pathway to recognition. Her attention to detail within the context of her large designs has enabled her work to travel widely and has given her the opportunity to encourage others to respect their own ideas and try whatever comes to mind. Her quilts are sewn by hand with thousands of stitches. Enjoying the contemplative nature of her work makes all the honors she has won a real bonus in her life.

Because it is the challenges in the quilts that make life interesting, Marianne believes her success is the product of following her motto "you can fix anything."

Since Marianne's debut exhibition at *Quilt Visions 2006* in California, her work has been juried into multiple international shows including *Quilt Japan* in Tokyo, *Patchwork Design* in Brazil, *Carrefours European Patchwork* in France, *Quilt National* in Ohio, *Art Quilt Elements* in the Philadelphia area, and *Art=Quilts=Art* in New York.

One of the many awards Marianne has received is the prestigious Seto Award in Japan which is a paid trip to Japan to teach 2 classes to Japanese students there. This is exactly the same as the *Quilt Japan Award* given by the jurors for the top 2 U.S. art quilt exhibitions, *Quilt Visions* and *Quilt National*.

Her publications include the catalogs of her exhibitions, and multiple magazine articles in American publications as well as magazines in Spain, Australia, Germany, France, Japan, and China. In 2013 her quilt, *Through the Lens*, was the cover of the *Quilt National* catalog.

## Artist Statement

I have always liked to make things. I never guessed that the quilts I have made would be so enjoyed by others all over the world. The quilting world is so generous and accepting of various styles and techniques that my quilts have been included in multiple international exhibitions. I was just not interested in making traditional quilts. I have the Singer Featherweight that my grandmother bought in 1935 and a 1973 White that zigzags, but I never have become adept at machine sewing. My choice has always been to make things by hand. My mother taught me my first embroidery stitches and when I had the opportunity to earn advanced certificates in design and embroidery from the international London (United Kingdom) City and Guilds program when it became available at the Art Center in my tiny town of Coupeville, Washington, I joined up and learned a lot. My very first juried exhibition was *Quilt Visions* in 2006. This gave me the confidence to continue my efforts. I learned that I did not have to know the "rules" for quilting, that I did not have to follow any teacher's directions and could strike out on my own which I have been doing ever since.

## Meet Marianne Burr - continued

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### Q+A

#### **What inspires your work at this time?**

Because extensive hand work is becoming difficult for me (arthritis), I have begin to reconsider extensively hand stitched experimental works I have completed. It is a challenge to cut them up and reassemble them to create a new cohesive design. I have always concentrated on process and design. Those are the messages in my work.

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

I have always liked to make things from paper and to draw. Quilt exhibitions have given me the opportunity to share what I have always enjoyed doing.

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

Sketchbooks are fun for me to use and keep. Any kind of camera always takes pictures that include more than I really want to know about a scene or a person, so I prefer to make quick sketches. It's a great way to fill time when necessary in waiting rooms, etc. A sketchbook is a very personal way for me to record a trip or event whether or not I translate the drawn ideas into other media.

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

Do not judge yourself. Go for it!! Trying things, having fun, feeling free are what it's all about. Go to exhibitions and see how individual all the work is. Enter shows...why not see if that panel of judges thinks that your piece will fit into that show?

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

Part of my fun in working with textile materials is seeing just how receptive they are to manipulation by my hands and whatever tools are available. Fortunately for me, needles and thread are universal and if one size is not available, other sizes will work.