

# Quilt Visions 2020

Meet Jan Tetzlaff

Bend, Oregon



## Artwork on Display

*Precipice*

Jan McBrien Tetzlaff creates art quilts that are a reflection of her love of fiber and the maker's hand. Her work is abstracted moments of time and place in which movement, line and memory are stitched by hand. Needle and thread stitch fabrics that are often hand dyed, highly textured, and sometimes antique, together in a way that encourages a contemplative process.

Jan is a former journalist and business owner who lives in Bend, Oregon with her husband. Together they have two children and four grandchildren. She is an active member of Studio Art Quilts Associates (SAQA) and Journeys, a Central Oregon small art group that meets regularly to critique and encourage each others' artistic work.

### Artist Statement

Memory of a place or time propels my work. A place I've visited or an experience remembered is conveyed in an abstract, often ambiguous way, using traditional construction methods.

My building block, my essential line, is made by hand with needle and thread. Slow, contemplative, subtle stitching allows me to add my personal narrative to the art work; to consider what I am trying to communicate. The stitched line moves the eye, creates pathways, contours, gestures, details and emotions.

Thread connects me with generations of artists who have created art in a slow, contemplative way.

### Q+A

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

Much of my art is inspired by memories and photographs. I work to capture through color, texture and line a moment of time that has meaning for me. Sometimes though it is one of those elements that will be a springboard for a new piece.

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

Meeting and getting to know talented artists/teachers inspired me to take the leap from a textile lover to a textile artist. Understanding that I could take my own skills, loves and abilities and grow them as an artist, unique in my own voice, is something I learned from other artists/teachers.

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

I do not use a sketchbook as regularly as I would like. When I do use one, I find it helps in the design process. So, using a sketchbook more regularly is one of my goals.

Choosing a prompt, or inspiration is my first step, then a color palate with a wide range of a color (brilliant red to pale peach) in a variety of textures from linen to velvets to hand dyed and manipulated fabrics. I work on the design wall, mocking up my design as I go. Then I take a deep breath and start to stitch, continually revising until the composition

## Meet Jan Tetzlaff - continued

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is complete. Because I hand quilt my work, I then baste the quilt top to a wool batting. My quilting is usually a variation of the running stitch. Before completion, I baste the quilted top to a back, then add more quilting to stitch together the three layers.

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

Take as many classes as you can and make friends with fellow students and the teachers. You can learn from both. Read art magazines and books, join an art quilt group (SAQA or a small art group), visit museums. Learn a new technique or style, then make it your own. Work at not imitating other artists' work. Finding your own style is hard work, but worth it.

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

Two years ago we built my studio filled with design walls, a cutting table, fabric storage, a mountain view and a comfortable chair to stitch in. I could live without it...but I am thankful I do not have too!