

## **Shifting Tides** Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA)

## Meet Amanda Miller <sub>Eugene, Oregon</sub>

## Artwork on Display Jumping the Gorge

Amanda Miller has a life-long interest in fabric and design. After retiring from teaching middle school English, she started creating art quilts, translating natural subjects and ideas into abstract renderings using traditional quilting techniques. Oregon, where she has lived for almost 45 years, inspires much of her work. Though Amanda has no formal artistic training, composition classes with several well-known fiber artists (notably Rosalie Dace) and the support of a small critique group have helped her hone her skills and find her voice. Her work has been shown in local, regional, national and international juried shows.

## **Artist Statement**

Summer is fire season in the Pacific Northwest, but in recent years, annual wildfires have taken on more intense and frightening aspects. Smoke chokes communities for weeks, Homes are destroyed while people and animals flee the blazes. Last summer fire even jumped the Columbia Gorge to continue burning on the far side. There is not complete agreement or a single solution for mitigating the damage of these fires. Increased educational efforts along with restrictions on fireworks and campfires during dry seasons could decrease human-caused blazes. Changes in forest policies could restrict the size of the fires. More careful land use planning and restrictions on developing high risk areas should also be considered.