

QUILT ART: INTERNATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

This exhibition introduces the work of Quilt Art, a group of 21 professional quilt artists from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States. Quilt Art members' diverse and dynamic approach to their craft has positioned the group at the forefront of international, contemporary textile art. Founded in 1985, when non-traditional quilting was just taking hold in Europe, Quilt Art aims to extend the boundaries of quilting as an artistic medium and achieve wider recognition of the quilt as an art form. Although the group exhibits regularly in Britain and Europe, this exhibition tour marks their first in the United States.

Quilt Art members strive toward integrity of expression and quality of craftsmanship. Each brings a distinctive approach to the quilt medium and the group is deliberate in selecting members to maintain this multiplicity of style. Many of the artists originally trained in other fields, but have found the tactile process of patterning, sewing, layering and joining fabric to be an ideal means of self-expression. Whether conveying personal or social issues, the artists of Quilt Art explore a range of abstract and thought-provoking ideas with an ever-changing variety of surface techniques, combining color, texture and stitch.

In describing the group's variety of techniques, folk art expert Robert Shaw writes, "... from contemporary twists on traditional hand dyeing, whole cloth, patchwork, strip piecing, appliqué, and hand and machine quilting, to such modern additions to the quiltmaker's repertoire as multiple panels, photo transfer, free improvisation, machine embroidery, free motion quilting, collage, resist dyeing, and painting, stenciling and printing on cloth... the consistently original work they have created over the years sets them apart both as individuals and as a group."

—excerpt from *Quilt Art 20*, 2005

Quilt Art: International Expressions was organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C., in conjunction with Quilt Art.