

Welcome New Members

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Pod 2

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Pod 7

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Images from our Meet-N-Greet in February.
More information inside

EVENTS AND DEADLINES - SAQA FLORIDA REGION

"AWAKENING" EXHIBIT VENUES

Jan 10 - March 14 at Elliott Museum Stuart, FL
April 1 - 29 at St. Pete Opera Company St. Pete, FL
May 10 - June 15 at Osceola Arts Kissimmee, FL

2025 SAQA GLOBAL CONFERENCE

April 3- 6, 2025 St. Pete FL

"TRIO" APPLICATION DEADLINE

July 31, 2025

Great news! Way to Go!

Show of Hands Art Quilts, (Pod 3N)

along with the Original Sewing and Quilting Expo, presents "The Other Florida," featuring lesser-known sights around the state. We are excited to share this with you!

It's at RP Funding Center, in Lakeland.

The exhibit is open Thursday to Saturday, March 14-16 from 10-5:00.

Left: *Beachfront Beauty*
by Gail Casady

Right: *Beware the Eyes*
by Sue Redhead



Perlie Petrillo was accepted into Fifth Avenue gallery in Melbourne, Florida, "100% Florida" exhibit, with *A Symbol of Power - Peregrine Falcon*.

This show will be on display March 4 - March 30, 2025



Dariel Diestalkamp

is excited to announce two First Places in "The Villages Showcase."

Left: *Chloe's Dream*

Right: *Shades of Natural Beauty*



Melani Brewer is pleased to announce work juried into “The Crow Show”

11th annual exhibit at The Studio Door in San Diego California. Patric Stillman is the gallerist and was also the juror.

this year. The show runs from March 6th - March 29th

Opening reception on March 15th 6-9

The Studio Door

3867 4th Avenue

San Diego, CA 92103

There will be a link to an online gallery as well, and a book of the show published.

Closer to home, **Melani** had work selected (one of 18, from 190 entries) for canvas utility wraps in Davie, Florida. Artists were to depict scenes related to Davie.

Melani has also had three of her works from the “Piecing Together a Changing Planet” exhibit (which traveled to National Parks several years ago) selected to be reproduced in canvas for NASA “Earth to Sky” classes. The classes address climate change.

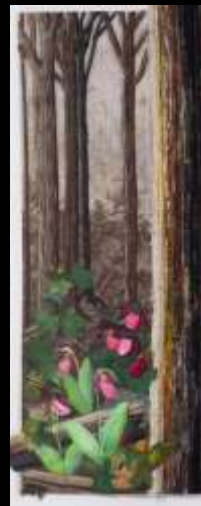
Selected works (L to R):

Pink Ladies, All But Lost, Wings of Fire



Left: *A Murder of Crows*

Below: *Raven*



Perlie Petrillo is thrilled to announce her First place Award for *Maya Angelou* at the “Arts Sarasota Members Show.”



Terese Stoller is pleased to share three of her quilted artworks have been selected for The Repurposer Collective's First Annual Exhibition. It runs March 1-30, 2025, hosted at the MAPSpace Gallery in Port Chester, New York.

Teresa would be absolutely delighted to have fellow quilt artists join the reception via Zoom on March 18th at 4 pm EST .

Teresa's work features repurposed fabric scraps, to help in her continuing mission to keep those scraps out of our landfills. Many fellow artists will showcase remarkable works of repurposed plastics and other unrecyclable materials: imaginative and thought-provoking works.



ZOOM RECEPTION:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hi8W14dBTNSctcDldXiUuw>

When joining via the Zoom link, attendees please register for the session chat so they can join in cheering on and supporting the artists!

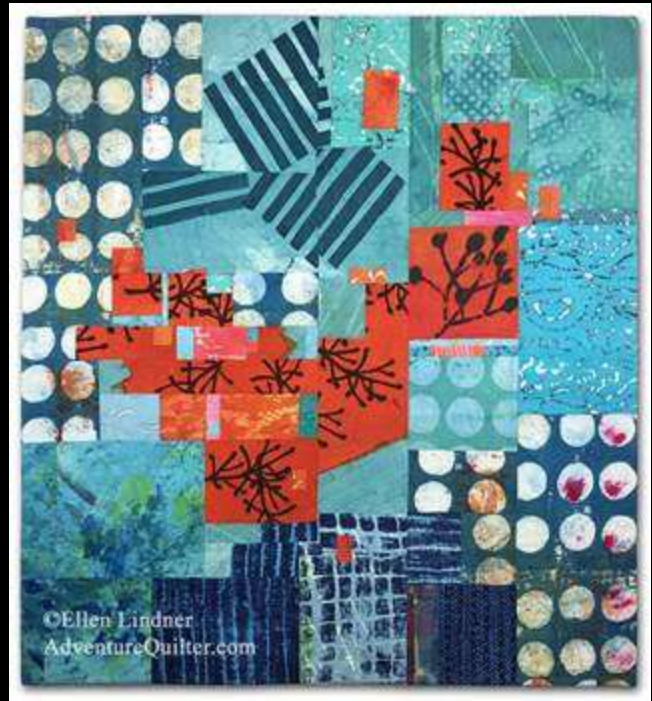
Susan Rienzo was delighted to have a good showing as a Guest Artist at the Vero Beach Quilt Guild Show February 7 - 8 where she also sold 3 pieces.

Susan will be teaching at the Vero Beach Art Club April 3rd and 17th.



Ellen Lindner is happy to have her quilt, *Exuberance*, accepted into [Surface 2025: A Juried National Exhibition of Artworks Unique in Texture and Pattern.](#)

This exhibit is currently on display at [d'Art Center in Norfolk, VA](#) through March 8, 2025. It is an all-media exhibit and Ellen's is the only textile piece. This is especially delightful to her, since she loves showing quilts as art to those who may be unfamiliar with it.



Update: Quilts for Israel

And here's the note from a recipient in the Be'eri community:

Dear all my very generous quilting friends,

Thank you so much for donating a quilt, and in many cases several quilts, for the survivors of the horrible massacres in Israel on Oct 7th, 2023.

And thank you to those who helped deliver those quilts as well. The quilts were transported by numerous generous souls who schlepped the quilts on El Al and delivered them to Gail Solomon and Cindy Richard in Tel Aviv. Both Cindy and Gail are the SAQA members, who coordinated this effort.

A total of 333 quilts were collected for the Be'eri community from people all over the world. They were delivered to Be'eri survivors January 28, 2025 as they were reunited, and moved into their new interim housing on Hazerim, a kibbutz that is welcoming them until Be'eri is revitalized.

Here's a photo of some of the quilts set up for distribution. I'm told the hugs and tears were flowing. So beautiful. So moving. Thank you.

When I helped you arrange the blankets and was exposed to the beauty and the investment, I was so moved. I thought about the fact that in all sorts of corners of the world there were good women sitting there, who thought of us and stood up and did something and gave us their handiwork... I was overwhelmed... and so moved (the food was just an excuse...) Thank you

Please convey our great gratitude to the representatives of these women.

In Florida, Joan Engel has spearheaded this project. She expressed special thanks to Pod 8 members who donated twice to this cause. It was a heartfelt contribution to a worthy cause! Thank you SAQA members of Pod 8 and Ellen Simon!!

NEWS... from OUR FLA REGION REPS



Celebrating Our Artists & Growing Our Community

Our group is filled with so much talent, and we want to celebrate YOU! Did you know we have an ****Artist Profile**** section on our website? It's a place where members can showcase their work, share their artistic journey, and let others see what inspires them.

Whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, your story matters. Adding your profile is a great way to connect with others, gain visibility, and maybe even inspire someone else to take the next step in their own creative journey. If you haven't added yours yet, I encourage you to check it out. Let's fill this space with the amazing creativity that makes our group so special!

Why We Create – A Reminder for Every Artist

It's easy to get caught up in perfecting techniques or finishing projects, but let's take a moment to remember why we create in the first place.

We create because it brings us joy. Because color, texture, and movement speak to something deep inside us. Because sometimes, the act of making—whether it's stitching a quilt, cutting a design, or dyeing fabric—is as important as the finished piece.

Not every project has to be a masterpiece. Some days, it's just about experimenting, learning, and finding small moments of inspiration. So if

you're ever feeling stuck or discouraged, remember: the most important thing is to keep creating. Your art, your voice, your vision—they all matter.

Meet Your Co-Rep! I'm also excited to introduce Ellen Simon, who will be joining me in cheering on and supporting our amazing group! Ellen is a longtime volunteer for SAQA FL, and I know she will be a great co-rep. When you have a chance, reach out to Ellen and thank her for continuing to be a valuable member for our region. We're both here to encourage, inspire, and help showcase the incredible talent in this group—so don't hesitate to reach out and say hello!

--- Angie Knowles



Art Meet and Greet

How do you know if your event has been a success or not? When at the end of the program, no one wants to go home!

That's the response we got at the end of the Art Meet and Greet held Saturday, Feb. 8 in Stuart. The AMG was organized around the Elliott Museum's showing of *Awakening*, our traveling SAQA Florida exhibit. Debra Gluszczyk walked us through the exhibit, reading the additional information sent to her by each artist. It gave us greater insight into each

quilt. In addition to the quilts hanging on the wall, the attendees were able to see the two censored quilts that had been "disallowed" by the museum leadership.

The second highlight of the day was the Powerpoint presentation "Creative Courage" featuring Ellen Lindner, Kestrel Michaud and Bobbi Baugh. Each artist gave a short talk on the challenges of creating art.

Of course some of the 40 attendees might have thought the highlight was the generous selection of door prizes, or the chocolate mousse cake served as dessert.

Whatever the best part, we know the fun of this event will be hard to match in the future. Thanks to a great committee for all their hard work and keeping us on schedule: our fearless leader Perlie; Angie and Ellen S, co-reps; Ellen L and Debra.

In addition, I would like to thank Perlie for securing home hosts for the committee and panel presenters, and the generous members who opened their homes to us: Barb, Sandy, Jennifer, Toni and Perlie.

--- Ellen Simon

NEWS... from the EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

for questions: *Bobbi Baugh, Committee Chair* exhib.saqa.fl@gmail.com

"Awakening" is still on exhibit at the Elliott Museum in Stuart through March 14. Its next stop is the St. Pete Opera Company, Mirella Cimato Gallery, for the month of April.

OUR NEXT EXHIBIT: TRIO Submissions are due **by July 31, 2025.**

Already, the exhibition committee has secured venue contracts that total six months of display time at just our first two venues. Our premiere will be at Ormond Museum of Art (Dec 18, 2025 – March 1, 2026), then Tequesta ArtCenter (April 23 through July, 2026.) The show is scheduled to travel through 2027. The regions of Georgia and South Carolina are working on venues in those regions too.

You will want to be a part of this exhibition opportunity. Make work you love and submit it! Everything you need to know is in the prospectus: [PROSPECTUS HERE](#)

Volunteer driver needed

After the “Awakening” exhibit is taken down in Stuart, Florida, it goes to Ellen Simon’s house in Parrish to prepare for exhibit in April in St. Pete. Ellen Nepustil has volunteered to drive from a mid-way point along SR 70 to deliver them to Ellen in Parrish. We are looking for a driver to pick up the work in Stuart and drive to meet Ellen along FL-70, about near Sebring.

Work should be ready for pick-up on March 18. It needs to get to Ellen by March 27. Drivers can plan the exact time and rendezvous logistics.

Available? Contact Bobbi Baugh at exhib.saqa.fl@gmail.com



News from our Pods

Pod 2 *from Christina Flores*

Pod 2 met in February and continued our art journey with Fosshape. In January we distributed kits and each person had to make a fabric and Fosshape quilted sandwich. This month we formed the fabric sandwich into bowls using steam. It was such a huge success and everyone's bowls were fabulous.

Next month we will explore using embroidery in a more modern and artful way.



Becky Stack Demo with steamer.

Above: Bowls by Adele Rivers (Left) and Becky Stack (Right)



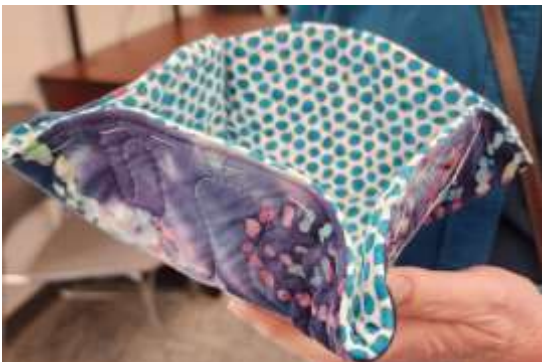
Pet Project by Christina Flores. Above, adding texture to fabric
(Below) Christina Flores Demo Bowl-shaped Fosshape ,
Erica Dodge Book Project; some Flosshape flat circles



Jan Lipsky Shaped Project

Jan Lipsky Fall Leaves

Juanelle Marshall doll cape



Rhoda Newton vessel with words

Bowls by Leslie Bendt, Melissa May



Robbin Neff



Surface Painting
by Robbin Neff



Pod 3N Show of Hands Quilts *from Diane Powers-Harris*

The meeting was held at Sue Redhead's new home in Mt. Dora. Attending were: Dariel, Kay, Karol, Kat, Gail, and Diane.

Discussion Items

Our upcoming shows: We were reminded of, and talked briefly about, our next group exhibit which will showcase "hands." We turned in our "The Other Florida" quilts to Kat who will be hanging them at The Original Sewing and Quilt Expo in Lakeland. The Expo will be at the RP Funding Center March 13 - 15, 2025. Of Note: In addition to our exhibit, SAQA's Global Exhibit Gastronomy will also be featured in the Quilt Gallery.

Karol shared several of the 29 quilts included in the Cloth in Common/Twenty Perspectives joint exhibit. Artists in the exhibits represent 14 countries. The quilts will be on display at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus, 140 7th Ave South, St. Petersburg 33701 during the SAQA Conference. This is less than ½ mile from the hotel. Hours: M-F 8am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 5pm and Sun 1pm to 9pm. Phone 727-873-4405 (please call to confirm visiting hours).

Remember, due to the Phyllis Cullen workshop, **our March meeting has been rescheduled and will be on the 3rd Tuesday which is March 18.** We'll still be meeting at Kat's home.



Works for “Wings” Exhibit: Sue shares *Poke the Eye Out!* This is done so birds are not attracted to dead fish carcasses and eat the eyes which can potentially cause the bird's death should a bone get stuck in its throat. Diane shares *Time is Running Out*, the first quilt in her bumble bee series. Kat shares *Evening Conversation*.



Karol shares her works for “Wings:” *Be Not Afraid*, a portrait of her friend Thelma. *Look Both Ways* is a quilt reinvented into a portrait of a friend. *Find Your Way*, another repurposed quilt. “*Bush Mother*”

“*Triple Etude*” made by Karol for “TRIO.,” and a new work “*Cruising.*”

Gail shares a new untitled work.





Kat explains Yoruba Creation Story.

Diane talks about *The Circus is Coming to Town* made for our 12" x 12" group challenge. *Recharging the Floridan Aquifer* by Diane will be included in the "Wings" exhibit.

Pod 3 St Pete *from Ellen Nepustil*

Everyone was reminded of the upcoming conference in April, "Awakening" exhibit at the Opera House in April and our pod's current show at the UU church in Clearwater.

Vickie Alsene, a SAQA member visiting from Wisconsin, shared several of her dyeing techniques today. How fortunate for us when snowbirds find our meeting and join us while here in town. Great show and tell as usual. Next meeting is March 18. Mary Ann, another snowbird, will be the presenter.



Work by Elizabeth



Work by Susan L



Pins



Work by Sue G



Work by Mary Anne

Vicky



Work by Kathy



Work by Lucy

Pod 7 *from Cindy Ambler*

Pod 7 met Feb. 17 via Zoom. Both Beth and Menna spoke about their attendance at the Florida SAQA Meet and Greet. They both reported it was a very good experience for learning, meeting others, and having a good time. Melani reported she had both of her entries in the Crow Show in San Diego accepted and will be traveling out there for the opening in March. She also reported on giving a talk and showing some of her work to the local chapter of the Pen Women's group. Our next meeting will be in-person on March 17.

Pod 8 *from Perlie Petrillo*



Nina's Nicolosi's magnificent handwork

Virginia Walton:
hand-painted scarf

We have two new members in our POD and we are thrilled! Kathy Azeez (her piece is in "Awakening" Show at the Elliott), and Sheryl Levine - who won 1st place in Vero Beach Art Museum for Fiber Art. We welcome them both!

At right is Sheryl's work: We have another hand-stitcher !



Perlie has entered two quilts in the Broward Art Guild, for the Abstract Exhibit. The show is Feb. 26 - March 21st. Opening reception is March 1st, from 5:30-8:30, located at 2052 E. Oakland Park Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. All hand-dyed, and screen printed using Procyon dyes.



Staying Connected

How to send news for the next
newsletter issue:

Send to Bobbi Baugh, Editor
NewsSaqFla@gmail.com



Angie Knowles
Co-Rep Florida Region
saqflrep@gmail.com



Ellen Simon
Co-Rep Florida Region
cqmaker1950@gmail.com

Florida Region Online resources

Our Florida Regional information website is:

<https://saqafl.com/>

Our Florida Artist Gallery Website is:

www.gallerytextileartsaqfl.com/

Our Guide to Putting together an exhibit,
side-by-side comparison of kinds of exhibits, is here:

<https://saqafl.com/index.php/resources/>