

Featured Artist Statement

Margy Duncan



What is it that has kept me making quilts since the early 70s? I think it's mainly because I love fabric. I also like the process of sewing and making something that is useful and cozy. My favorite part of making a quilt is the quilting, making patterns that holds the 3 layers together, and I love doing that by hand. I'm never going to be a fancy machine quilter.

When I started to make a quilt I was my own teacher. Trial and error was the method I used—mostly error. No rotary cutters back then. It was make a template and trace each piece by hand. Then cut with scissors. It was slow and could get boring. I still use that method because I make mostly scrappy quilts.

Of course, when I did my first quilt I didn't even have my sewing machine. My husband was in the Navy and we had gotten transferred to San Diego without our household goods. Patchwork skirts were popular back then. I had bought a book on patchwork in Williamsburg, VA just before we left. So I thought I'd give it a try. When the piece seemed big enough, I spread it out on the bed and it almost fit the top. My skirt turned into a quilt with a few borders.

I ordered a big quilt frame and started stitching. Up and down, a year later I'm still stitching. On my second quilt I learned to do the rocking stitch and how to use a thimble. I've never had any art or color classes. I just go with what I like. I mostly do traditional patterns.

Featured Artist Statement

(Continued)

Ed stayed in the Navy for 30 years. We moved, I don't know how many times. I started to teach when we were in Butte, Montana. What's the Navy doing there? He was at a reserve center. At the Vo-tech I found out all I needed to teach classes was to submit class plans. I had about 20 students when classes started, many became good friends. I loved teaching and meeting new people that way.

My other dream was to open my own shop. Three of us got together and opened a Stitcher's Shop in uptown Butte. We taught to some very small groups, but it was always fun. Then we got transferred to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I taught classes and worked in fabric shops.

After that I got to come back home. I grew up in Bellevue and now live in Kirkland. I saw a sign at *In The Beginning Fabrics* one day when I was shopping there. I knew it would be wonderful working there. Luckily they hired me. I worked 10 years in the retail store and 10 years in the wholesale department. I taught class, mostly Garden Twist and Gingersnap 9 patch.

I retired in 2012 but after getting all the time I could ask for I missed the business. I found out they needed extra help. I've been working 2 days a week for the past 2 years. I do the filing and if they need sample quilts for the new lines. I've also sewn the shop hop blocks together the past 2 years.

My work has been published in Quilters newsletter and publications by *In The Beginning Fabrics*. My quilts have been accepted into APNQ shows. I was president of the Hawaii quilt guild and Block Party Quilters.

Margy Duncan

2019 BPQ Featured Artist