

HMQS: A Labor of Love



HMQS director Ann Collet (left) and manager Jennifer Pond (right)

It may have started out ten years ago as an exhibition for talented quiltmakers from Utah and the surrounding region, but the Home Machine Quilting Show (HMQS) is now an international venue that attracts over 5,000 visitors from around the world.

According to founder and show director Ann Collet, "With the cooperation of several individuals and early sponsors, we were able to bring a wonderful quilting event to this area. The show has exceeded our expectations, with more stunning quilts displayed each year."

In and Around Salt Lake City

This annual three-day showcase, held Mother's Day weekend each May at the South Towne Exposition Center in Salt Lake City, features about 125 quilting and sewing classes for attendees, 700 machine-quilted quilts on display, a shopping mall with 200 vendor booths, free demonstrations and make & take projects by expert quilters, trunk shows by featured artists, a late-afternoon shopping fest, and a quilt competition with \$28,000 in cash awards.

"Utah is quite a hub for quilting. There are lots of fabric shops and longarm machine companies headquartered



2013 HMQS show floor at the South Towne Exposition Center in Salt Lake City just before opening



Fire in the Sky by Alice Kay Arnett of Laramie, Wyoming. Machine quilted by Sherry Reynolds on a domestic Bernina 1001. "Fire in the Sky is our recognition of the events of last summer. The local fireworks display was canceled due to the many raging wildfires consuming the region. This quilt is symbolic of the missed fireworks, as well as the glowing night skies seen in the distance. The design is original and drafted on graph paper by Sherry." Award: Second Place, Novelty Custom

here," notes HMQS manager Jennifer Pond. When choosing a location for the event, Salt Lake City seemed only natural. "We wanted to host our show in a city that was clean, friendly, and safe."

The city is also easy to navigate and packed with sights to see, which makes it a great vacation destination. "The South Towne Exposition Center, which was built for the 2002 Winter Olympics, is really ideal," Jennifer points out. "Parking is free, there are nice restaurants and theaters across the street, and the expo center is one level—no stairs."

The city is also within easy driving distance of area resorts, beautiful canyons and gorges, Olympic Park in Park City, and an absolute must-see, the Great Salt Lake—the largest saltwater lake in the western hemisphere. Show management arranges a downtown Salt Lake City bus tour Thursday evening after the show closes, which is always very popular with attendees. The tour includes a dinner and speaker, a visit to the historic Temple Square gardens, and admission to a rehearsal of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



The Gospel Truth, constructed and quilted by Barbara Ann McCraw of Denton, Texas. "This coat was made for an exhibit called 'The Griots of Fiber.' A griot is a storyteller in Africa. I was asked to design a garment to tell my story about what music meant to me. My mother singing in the church choir was my immediate, strongest, and most-beloved memory." Award: Second Place, Garments



Mermaid Dreams by Shelli Ricci, Dee Legvold, and Mary Reinhardt of Apple Valley, Minnesota. Machine quilted by Page Johnson on a Gammill Statler. Digitizing by Quilty Pleasures and original art design, painting, and embellishments by Shelli Ricci. Award: Third Place, Art Innovative

Testimonials from One and All

To hear the praise, it's clear that vendors, teachers, and attendees love this show. "If you have never been to HMQS, you need to come," says teacher and vendor Dusty Farrell of Country Stitchin. "If you want to see a massive display of breathtaking quilts and shop 'til you drop, this is the place to be. If you're looking for some awesome classes, they have A-list teachers. Don't hesitate to add HMQS to your 2014 bucket list."

"HMQS offers the best vendors, the 'best of the best' quilts and classes," concurs quilt teacher Cathy Franks. "What else could you want? Quilts, classes, and spectacular mountains! Run, don't walk, to sign up for next year!"

Kathy Buckmaster, a first-time attendee, said she wasn't a machine quilter but was strongly considering becoming one. "Can't wait to bring my sister with me next year!" she adds.

Quilting Who's Who

The list of instructors for the 2013 show was a veritable Who's Who of the machine quilting world and included national and international award winners (see box). Class offerings included beginner, as well as more advanced, instruction in a variety of topics including appliqué, free-motion quilting, feathers and fillers, machine binding, thread art, embellishing, and design. There were even business classes for anyone who is considering starting a business or who is already an established professional.

Themes and Competitions

Each year, a show theme is chosen. This year's theme was "That's Amore." Amore means love in Italian. According to the show organizers, "We at HMQS love quilting. We love seeing all our quilting friends each year at the show, and we love life!" Participants were invited to think about what they love most and reflect that theme in

their quilts. There were about 20 categories in all to choose from, including a Modern category added just this year.

With approximately \$28,000 in prize money at stake, the contest is competitive, with quilt entries coming in from around the world. However, for those quilters who prefer just to display their work for the enjoyment of others and not be subjected to the rigors of a judging process, there is a non-judged exhibit as well.

2014

HMQS 2014 will take place from May 8–10 at the South Towne Exposition Center, and the theme of the show will be "Quilters' Symphony." For a complete list of featured instructors together with their bios, full class descriptions, contest information (including categories, explanation of theme, rules, and entry forms), a vendor list, events, special exhibits, and places to stay, visit www.hmq.s.org. In addition, a CD is currently available with over 1,000 professional high-quality photos from the 2013 show, including all award winners and challenge quilts.

So make it a date, bring family or friends, and join the fun next year! ❖

2013 Instructor Lineup

Jen Alexander, Renae Allen, Bobbie Bergquist, Irena Bluhm, Tracey Browning, Kim Brunner, Steve Butler, Michele Crawford, Dustin Farrell, Lee Fletcher, Cathy Franks, Carmen Geddes, Cara Gulati, Renae Haddadin, Suzanne Michelle Hyland, Page Johnson, DeLoa Jones, Kay McCain, Sue Patten, Claudia Pfeil, Mary Reinhardt, Patricia Simons, Deonn Stott, Georgia Stull, Colleen Swettman, Linda V. Taylor, Rick Taylor, Sally Terry, Jamie Wallen, Judy Woodworth

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