



Penguin Place Studio

Where digital and fabric arts meet.

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Art Quilts

Growing up we were taught that artists paint or sculpture, Housewives quilt. Today we know better. Quilts are also a form of art. So much so, in fact, that well known and long established museums now have historical archives of quilts and an ongoing display of quilts.

Quilts are so much a part of today's society that new museums dedicated to the art of quilting spring up all over the country. We have county wide, state wide, country wide and world wide quilt exhibits and contests. We make them in all manner of styles from traditional to artistic. Many terms relating to painting or sculpture are used in the art quilt community. Terms like primitive, modern, composition study, color study, blending, bleeding, hue, intensity, shade, **sfumato**^{*1}, mosaic, palette, **sgraffito**^{*2}, sizing, study, tint, value, vehicle and more.

Indeed, quilting even has its own categories of miniatures. Quilting miniatures can be a wall hanging, table topper or even as small as postcards, bookmarks and Artist trading cards (approximately the size of a business card or playing card). Art companies are even creating prints of quilts. Quilt patterns are being created in jewelry, sculptures and Italian tile coasters, or displayed on barns.

^{*1} **sfumato** Italian for shaded off. Gradual, almost imperceptible transitions of color from light to dark.

^{*2} **sgraffito** Italian. Technique in which the top layer is incised or cut away to reveal a contrasting color.

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