

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



MARCH 2013

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

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Quilts for Show

Hope you are all ready for our Exhibition next month. Please bring all your quilts to meeting with the appropriate forms filled. Everything is going well for the exhibition, and hope you are all selling raffle tickets.

I will avail forms for the workshops that are going to be held during the Exhibition at the meeting and hope that you will sign up for them. All workshops will cost Kes.500/- plus you get a kit with it.

For those of you who will be doing Dena's class, I'm sure you will enjoy it, as I had really enjoyed it.

For those of you who work or cannot come to monthly meetings, I hope to see you all at the Exhibition next month, and please speak to your friends and family. The Posters are now ready and will be distributed at the next meeting.

Also, we have some names for the AGM next month, and anyone who is still interested in taking up any posts, must get in touch with me. We do need some names, so ladies please VOLUNTEER.

Neela

APOLOGY – ANIMAL FABRIC SCRAPS

Apologies to Charu. Her planned African animal quilt is to raise funds for charity projects – not for the expenses of the exhibition as announced last month. I am sure she would be grateful for help with this project – and for more supplies of animal fabrics – please search your stashes and see what you can find. Contact Charu at the March meeting.

EXHIBITIONS

MAGICAL ART OF STITCHES

Please make sure that you have the dates in your diary. The exhibition will take place at the Sarit Centre on 12th, 13th and 14th April. There will be sign-up sheets for helpers (we will need all members to volunteer please –the hall is big and will need lots of helpers) We have now received the major Minors exhibition from South Africa – over 50 miniature art quilts from the Fibreworks group of art quilters. We also have a very special exhibition of antique (or at least very old!) embroidered Chinese hats, which belonged to Rowena Buxton. There will be short classes and demos in quilting and embroidery techniques ongoing, one of which will be Sarah Brewin's class on hand piecing hexagons –to make a Grandmother's Garden quilt. The exhibition poster, kindly designed by Mike Gaudaur, will be available for distribution at the April meeting and we will later send it out by email so that you can forward it to your friends. We will be depending on Guild members to spread the word and draw in the crowds!

STOP PRESS – Anila from Buttons & Bows in the Yaya Centre will provide her flyers for handing out at the exhibition. Anyone who presents one of these at her shop will receive 20% discount off fabric selling at a regular price of 750/- per metre. Offer is valid until the end of July. Thank you Anila.

OUT OF AFRICA

Garnet Smalley, organizer of the OUT OF AFRICA EXHIBITION in London, Ontario, has been racing around Canada since last September, visiting quilt guilds and other organizations, and showing off some of our quilts. Induben Shah's stunning Maasai quilt, which won the KQG Africa Challenge last year,

has been widely shown. Congratulations Induben! However the star of the publicity campaign has been the Unity or Peace quilt (below) made by the refugee ladies at Amani ya Juu. You may remember that we took this quilt for the 2008 exhibition in Ailsa Craig and the townsfolk whipped round at the final Gala Dinner and raised funds to buy it for the community. The plan was to keep it in the local library and use it for teaching purposes in the schools in the area. If you want to follow Garnet's travels round Canada – and maybe get a peep at one of your quilts if you have already sent some – check out the blog on <http://londoninternationalquiltfestival.blogspot.com/> More info on the Canada show next month.

OUT OF AFRICA 2013 QUILTS FROM AFRICA

Join us for a talk by Garnet Smalley, organizer of the London International Quilt Festival who will display and talk about quilts from Gabon, Zimbabwe and Kenya. These wonderful works of art reflect the cultures of the countries from which they come. This talk will offer a preview of the Quilt Festival – "Out of Africa 2013" which will take place from June 12-15, 2013 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel here in London.

7-8:30 PM
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 2013

CENTRAL LIBRARY
251 Dundas Street
Stevenson and Hunt Meeting Room A

FREE!
2 hours free validated parking
in Citi Plaza during library hours.



The Unity Quilt by <http://www.amaniafrica.org>



<http://www.londoninternationalquiltfestival.com/>

EXHIBITIONS

AFRICAN TEXTILES TODAY

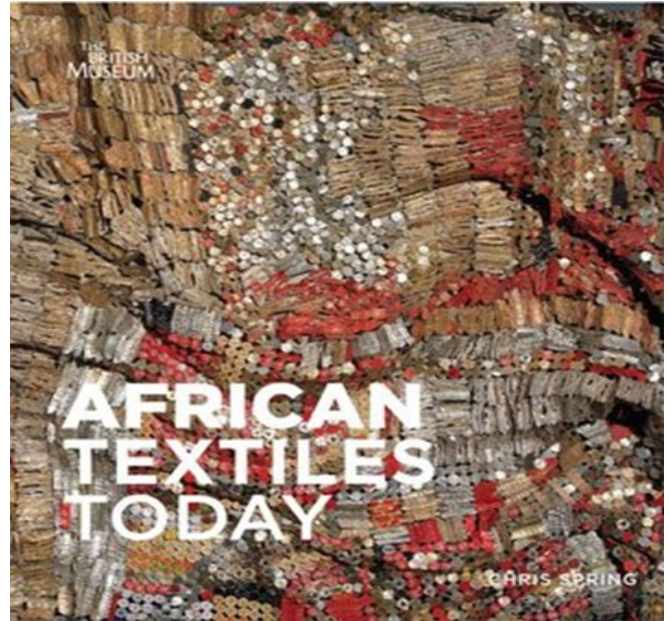
An exhibition from southern and eastern Africa at the British Museum - 14 February – 21 April 2013

The rich fabric of African printed and factory-woven textiles reflects changing times, fashions and tastes. From eastern to southern Africa, the social and historical significance of these beautiful and diverse materials are also reflected in the identities of those who wear them.

This exhibition takes a fresh look at the history, manufacture and continuing social significance of these textiles. These textiles – including kanga from Kenya and Tanzania, capulana from Mozambique, and shweshwe from southern Africa – mirror changing times, fashions and tastes. They provide a detailed chronology of the social, political, religious, emotional and sexual concerns of the (mainly) women who wear them. Their patterns and inscriptions also vary according to the age of the wearer and the context in which the cloth is worn. This unspoken language may be used to suggest thoughts and feelings which cannot be spoken. They are worn in secular and sacred contexts and play a central role in all of the major rite-of-passage ceremonies in women's and, in some cases, men's lives.

This description is taken from the British Museum website. The Museum has also produced a lavishly illustrated book – African Textiles Today to accompany the exhibition. It is available at the Text Book Centre in Nairobi.

http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/african_textiles_today.aspx



From the series 'A New Beginning'

© Araminta de Clermont, Cape Town, South Africa, 2009–2010

TIT BITS

ELECTROSMOG EXPOSURE

At the February meeting we were lucky to have two guest speakers – Gush, Raji Syan's daughter, and her friend Alexandra Syagga – to speak to us about this problem. Alexandra is doing research on this topic for her doctorate so was able to speak with authority and warned us of the dangers of exposure from electronic devices. She recommended the use of an E-guard device which can be stuck onto your phone. These are available at New Muthaiga shopping centre or you can call Gush (0722925052) or Alexandra (0703747686) for more info

NEW BOOK



Tracy Chevalier, American writer based in UK, and author of the best-selling novel *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, about the Dutch artist, Vermeer, has just published a new book which may interest quilters. It is called *The Last Runaway* and is based on the history of the Underground Railroad, the route which was used by slaves escaping

from the south of the US to their freedom in Canada. You can read a synopsis of the plot below, and, if you have speakers attached to your computer, you can hear Tracy Chevalier being interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Womans' Hour* if you click on this link :

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p016btt7>

"Honor Bright is a modest English Quaker with a broken heart. Emigrating to Ohio with her sister in the hope of making a new life, she soon discovers that 19th-century America hard, precarious place to live. Its people are practical and unsentimental, its climate challenging. Even its quilts are different from

those she makes. Moreover, it is divided by slavery, legal in southern states and opposed by many northerners.

One day a runaway slave appears in the farmyard of Honor's new family, and she must decide what to do. Even Quakers - famed for championing human equality - may hesitate to break the laws of the land. Drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad, a network of people helping runaways escape to freedom, Honor befriends two surprising women who demonstrate what defiance can achieve. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal cost "

Whilst Tracy was writing the book she became interested in quilt making. Her first quilt is shown below and this is what she says about it:

27/11/2012 - I was researching quilt making for a novel and decided I had to make one myself. After practicing on a couple of cushion covers, I made this lap quilt, using fabrics I'd collected from forays into quilt shops in the US and UK. All is hand pieced, hand sewn, hand quilted - I don't have a machine, plus I wanted to experience what my quilting character would have. It took about a year to make.



AFTERNOON QUILTING CLASSES

At the April meeting I will be giving a talk and slide show on the Kanga. The committee would like everyone to try and bring their favourite kanga along for a Show and Tell. In fact we would love to see as many of you as possible dressed up in a kanga at the meeting.



HOW TO GET A PERFECT ¼ SEAM

A great tutorial with clear instructions and photographs for new quilters – or anyone who is struggling to get the perfect ¼" seam on their sewing machine.

<http://www.seamstobeyouandme.com/2012/02/09/how-to-get-a-perfect-14-seam/>

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Thursday 21st March – Handing in of quilts for the April exhibition – the Magical art of Stitches. Round Robin teaching spots on Bindings, Sleeves and Labels for quilts followed by class on Fuss Free bindings in the afternoon.

Please note there will not be a sampler class on this day as the roomd will be occupied by the binding class.

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th April – Combined KQG and KEG Show at Sarit Centre. The Magical Art of Stitches.

Thursday 18th April – Presentation and slide show on Kangas – Gill Rebelo

Thursday 16th May – Presentation on the Modern Quilt Movement – by Gill Rebelo

Thursday 20th June – Humble Beginnings – a chance for members to show their first-ever and their most recently completed quilts.

Thursday 18th July – programme to be decided

THE KENYA QUILT

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www.kentuckyquiltguild.org

Meetings

Venue:

Simba Union Off
Forest Road

Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

Monthly meeting date

March 21, 2013

This month's contributors

- ◆ Gill Rebelo
- ◆ Sheryl Fowler

MARCH MEETING – QUILTS FOR THE SHOW

We will be taking in quilts for the show at this meeting. Please bring along all quilts that you have finished and want to exhibit. It will be a busy morning with lots for Show and Tell so please come early. To help those members who are rushing to finish quilts for the show, the committee decided to devote the morning to different methods of binding a quilt, to be followed by Dena's special binding technique class in the afternoon for all those who have booked a place. There may be a couple of places left if anyone wants to join in the fun. Please contact me – Gill – on the Guild gmail address or on 0722 613 105 asap. Dena will also be demonstrating the best way to put a hanging sleeve on your quilt. Please note that you must have paid your 2013 dues to exhibit your quilt. If you have not yet done so you can pay at the meeting.

QUILT OF QUILTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR QUILT WITH THE WORLD?

The V & A Museum, in London's South Kensington, now has a virtual quilt gallery showing nearly 700 new and historical quilts. Click on <http://www.vam.ac.uk/microsites/quilts/gallery/patterns> to visit it and view the quilts. If you click on View Details, you will get an enlarged version of each quilt together with the name and comment from the maker. You can even View by Location (click on Kenya on the world map that comes up), and you will see there is only one quilt from Africa – from a lady in Kisumu who is not a KQG member. Wouldn't it be fun to see lots of Kenya quilts up there? Why don't we all try to send a picture of our favourite quilt to go on display. If you would like to give it a try go to: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/microsites/quilts/> and you will see a link Add your quilts. Take it from there!

APPRECIATION: Thanks to Jane MacAskill and Phillipa Yusuf for suggestions for articles.

Editor in Chief : Margaret Atandi (ondara2005@yahoo.com or ondra2005@gmail.com) The editor in chief welcomes contributions from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition of SNIPPETS to her email by 10th monthly.