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March/April 2024

## Mosaic by Willow Valley Communities PRESENTS TWENTY FLOORS OF MAGNIFICENCE

### FEATURING

- + Weddings: Gardens At Applecross
- + Selecting a Summer Camp Program
- + Educating the Whole Person – Part Two: Investing Upstream
- + Kate the Earthling
- + Wayne Art Center Presents *Art Quilt Elements 2024*

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# Mosaic by Willow Valley Communities

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# Wayne Art Center

## PRESENTS *ART QUILT ELEMENTS 2024*



Dianne Firth, *Red Shift*

By Susan I. Shiber

Among Wayne Art Center's most heralded gems is the international juried *Art Quilt Elements (AQE)* exhibition. Celebrating its 16th anniversary this year, the contemporary exhibition makes its ninth appearance in the suburban home that adopted it at a critical point in time. Wayne Art Center promises another spectacular show filled with exciting companions to the magnificent works on display. *Art Quilt Elements 2024* opens on March 24th and runs through April 27th.

### A Surprising History of Quilts

According to various historical accounts, the stitching together of layers of soft padding and fabric – or quilting – dates back as far as 3400 BCE! It was primarily a practical sewing technique used to make coverings to provide physical protection and insulation. However, decorative touches were often added by residents of the Fertile Crescent and other habitats of the world's oldest civilizations.

In America, quilts were originally utilitarian articles made to warm beds and to help keep cold air from entering poorly sealed windows. Colonial women had little time to even consider artistic quilting. They cobbled together worn pieces of fabric from old blankets to protect their families during bitter winters.

After fabrics were manufactured in America and became more affordable, quilts took on artistic personalities. In the 100 years between 1750 and 1850, thousands of quilts were pieced, patched, and stitched into elaborate family heirlooms. Wealthy families boasted that their quilts were made from imported silk.

In the early 1700s, numerous Amish and Dutch colonists settled in Pennsylvania. Roots of beautifully crafted patchwork quilts stem from those early Amish homesteads. Over the next 300-plus years, quilts meandered in and out of vogue. A revival in the 1970s and '80s coincided with a back-to-the-land movement. Suddenly younger people wanted to create lovely quilts.

The Bicentennial celebration of 1976 served as a turning point in the history of American quilts. The quilt became popular as a means of expressing national pride and achievement and was a powerful reminder of the country's past.

# Art Quilt Elements

2024

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Laurel Izard, *Mad Bear*



Patty Kennedy-Zafred, *Caught in the Crosshairs*

Betty Busby, *Seeds of Rage*

### The Story Behind *Art Quilt Elements*

Wayne Art Center Executive Director Nancy Campbell's reminiscence takes her back to 2008 when *Art Quilt Elements* (née *Art Quilts at the Sedgwick*) made its debut at Wayne Art Center. The exhibition was founded in 1999 as an annual Sedgwick Cultural Center event. The Sedgwick closed in 2006 causing *Art Quilts* to relocate to the Art Alliance in Philadelphia. Another move was soon to be.

I guess you could say that the stars were aligned as Wayne Art Center had just completed a major expansion in 2007, including the spacious Davenport Gallery. Coincidentally, and resulting from a chance encounter with Deb Schwartzman, co-founder of *Art Quilts at the Sedgwick*, Nancy learned the show organizers were seeking a new venue suitable for the presentation of art quilts. Following an invitation to visit the new Davenport Gallery, the group soon realized that Wayne Art Center offered the ideal place and shared the commitment to elevate this exhibition to the highest possible standard.

The inaugural *Art Quilt Elements* exhibition included 70 juried quilts showcased in the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith and Davenport Galleries. It continues to be Wayne Art Center's most-attended exhibit, welcoming over 3,000 visitors. "From the moment we discussed launching the art quilt exhibition I knew it would be a valuable addition to our program calendar," remarked Nancy.

Since then, *Art Quilt Elements* has evolved into an internationally recognized exhibition revered by the Philadelphia region and beyond. A *Philadelphia Inquirer* critic evaluated the first *Art Quilt Elements* at Wayne Art Center with positivity: ... a dazzling display of art quilts ... an astonishing achievement.

### An Exquisite Array of Color and Originality

*Art Quilt Elements 2024* continues that tradition of excellence. This extraordinary exhibition features the works of 50 artists from 25 states and other countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Malaysia. Winnowed down to one quilt per artist, the show represents a variety of styles filled with brilliant colors and subtle tones. "The work juried into this exhibition embraces



wayne art center



Susan Else, *Voyages*

original and innovative methods and incorporates impressive craftsmanship and technical prowess,” extolled Nancy.

It was a daunting task to jury 100s of artists’ entries and select the works that would be represented in *Art Quilt Elements 2024*. This year’s nationally renowned jurors include Carolyn Ducey, the Ardis B. James Curator of Collections at the International Quilt Museum at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Ann Johnston, an award-winning and published textile artist from Oregon; and Bruce W. Pepich, Executive Director and Curator of Collections at the Racine Art Museum in Racine, Wisconsin.

Another celebrated component of *Art Quilt Elements* is the exhibition catalog which is printed in full color, highlighting each artist’s work. Catalogs are available for purchase at Wayne Art Center or via [ArtQuiltElements.org](http://ArtQuiltElements.org). The attractive catalogs have become collectors’ items among quilt enthusiasts.

*Art Quilt Elements 2024* will grace the walls of the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith and Davenport Galleries. Works by the late Cindy Friedman will be featured in the Vidinghoff Gallery. An opening reception is scheduled for March 24th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Artist Talks presented by several of the quilt exhibitors will be held at 4:00 p.m.

#### In Loving Tribute

The art world lost two amazing women in 2023: Cindy Friedman and Margo Clyma. Wayne Art Center was a better place be-

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This year, 50 artists from 25 states and Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Malaysia have assembled an extraordinary collection of work. Winnowed down to one quilt per artist, the show represents a variety of styles filled with brilliant colors and subtle tones. “The work juried into this exhibition embraces original and innovative methods and incorporates impressive craftsmanship and technical prowess,” extolled Nancy.



Diane Melms, *Frolic*

## Art Quilt Elements

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Wayne Art Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the community through the arts. Since its founding in 1931, it has been widely recognized as a vital cultural resource, welcoming artists from throughout the world who share their passion and commitment to the visual arts.



Stephanie Shore, *Timelines*

# Art Quilt Elements Artists 2024

Bobbi Baugh, FL  
Polly Bech, PA  
Margaret Black, PA  
Allegra Brelsford, NY  
Betty Busby, NM  
Deb Cashatt, CA  
Kim Eichler-Messmer, KS  
Susan Else, CA  
Petra Fallaux, PA  
Megan Finch, WA  
Dianne Firth, Australia  
Diana Fox, CO  
Jayne Bentley Gaskins, VA  
Helen Gaglio, IN  
Lolly Gold, CO  
Debbie Grifka, MI  
Carolyn Harper, PA

June Horwich, Canada  
Ming Hsu Lees, Malaysia  
Laurel Iazard, IN  
Chriss Johns, IL  
Patty Kennedy-Zafred, PA  
Toni Kersey, PA  
Jill Kerttula, VA  
Natalya Khorover, NY  
MJ Kinman, KY  
Judy Kirpich, WA  
Eleanor Levie, PA  
Michelle Lipson, MD  
Cat Mailloux, OH  
Theodore Maringer, OH  
Linda McConaughy, OH  
Virginia McConnell, VA  
Lee McLean, Canada

Diane Melms, AK  
Carolyn Murphy, Canada  
Kathy Nida, CA  
Diane Núñez, MI  
Carolina Oneto, Brazil  
Sarah Pavlik, DE  
Wen Redmond, NH  
Judy Gaynes Sebastian, MA  
Deidre Scherer, VT  
Barbara Schneider, IL  
Candace Hackett Shively, GA  
Stephanie Shore, MA  
Amanda Smith, MO  
Jim Smoote, IL  
Rebecca Talbot, TX  
Barb Wills, WA



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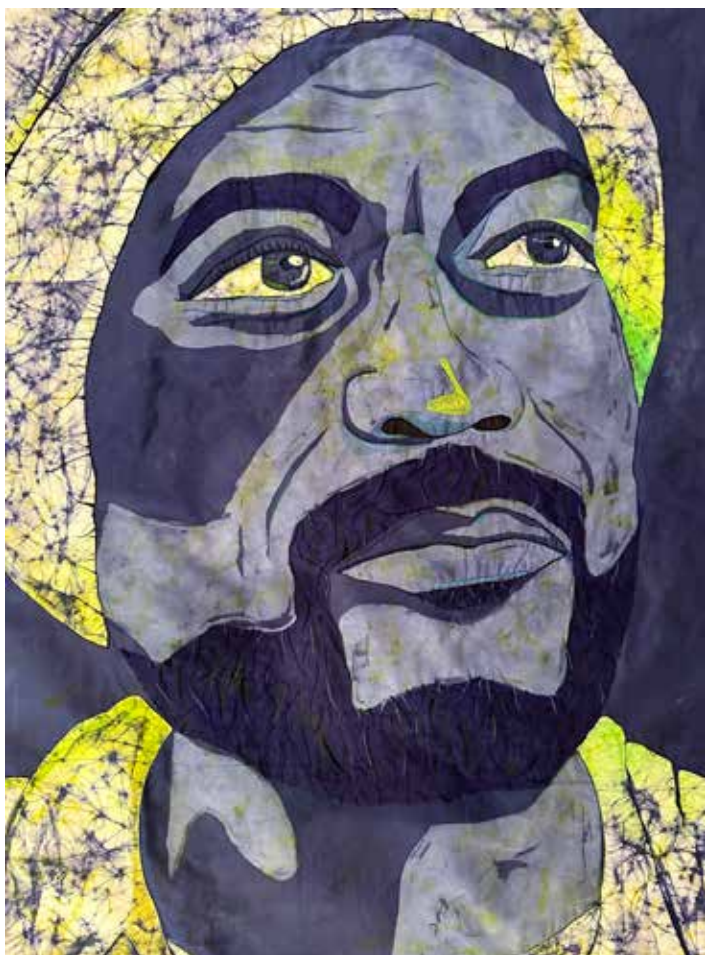
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Carolyn Harper, *William P.*

cause of their devotion and diligence to perfection. Margo Elaine Clyma was a member of the *Art Quilt Elements* committee. She was renowned for her talents as a seamstress and quilter. An active member of several quilt guilds, Margo's works garnered awards and endless appreciation. Her association with *Art Quilt Elements* was one of love for the medium. She will be missed.


"Cindy Friedman was a devoted friend, talented artist, and enthusiastic champion of the arts," stated Nancy in a tribute to the co-founder of *Art Quilt Elements*. "We are indebted to her for her leadership, generous contributions, and volunteer efforts in the advancement of *Art Quilt Elements* and Wayne Art Center's exhibition program."

Wayne Art Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the community through the arts. Since its founding in 1931, it has been widely recognized as a vital cultural resource, welcoming artists from throughout the world who share their passion and commitment to the visual and performing arts. With a wide range of youth, teen, and adult classes and workshops; artist demonstrations and lectures; local, national, and international exhibitions; and special events, the esteemed art center remains steadfast in its mission to afford artists and the broader community an interdisciplinary venue to explore, share, and learn, while fostering a sense of community for arts education and appreciation. *Art Quilt Elements* exemplifies this mission.

Be sure to stop by to view *Art Quilt Elements 2024!* **CCL**

Carolina Oneto, *Colored Bubbles IV*

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*Joseph J. DellaVecchia, III – FD/Supervisor*

# Art Quilt Elements

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Judy Gaynes Sebastian, *Calliope*

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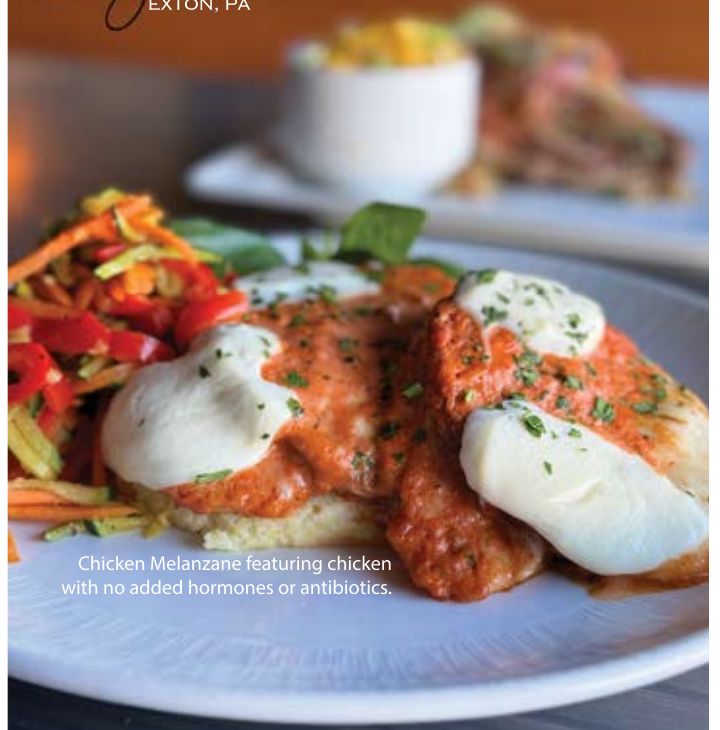
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