

JOURNEY

Ocean Waves 2012 Challenge Theme

You are challenged to create a quilt* that represents your interpretation of “journey” in fabric using any technique or combination of techniques you wish.

Timeline:

- Jan. 2 - theme announced at guild meeting, general overview of challenge
- Feb. 13 - Following the guild meeting in the front of the room:
 - Q & A session with demonstration of tips for getting started with a theme challenge ~ Bring pen, pad/notebook, this document*
 - Sign ups begin
- Mar. 6 - Deadline for signing up for participation
- Sept. 10 - Quilts due (Guild meeting)

Guidelines:

- * A quilt is defined as a sewn project consisting of three layers: top, batting (middle) and backing.
- Quilt may be any size or form the creator wishes
- You can employ any technique or combination of techniques to achieve your depiction of the theme (traditional piecing, applique, paintstik, photo transfer, thread painting, whole cloth, words, embellishment, etc.)
- Please include a label with a brief description of your inspiration and how/why you used the techniques you did in your quilt.

Resources:

- Dana Mason, danaleemason@gmail.com or 732-3546. I am not participating in this challenge, so I will serve as a resource to participants. I am available to run ideas by, figure out how to transform your ideas into a quilt, encouragement, whatever...
- Twelve by Twelve - The International Art Quilt Challenge
www.Twelveby12.org
This book, and its accompanying website, is a good resource to see how other quilters approach the creation of a theme quilt.
 - Available at Amazon.com or you can borrow Dana's copy.
- Quilter's Album of Patchwork Patterns ~ Jinny Beyer
www.jinnybeyer.com - click on "quilter's design board" then "free patterns" for a gallery of the 4,050 blocks found in the book - download for free
Great source of blocks, with names, that could be used to represent the theme. The website also has a design board so you can experiment with a quilt design for your selected blocks.
 - Available at Amazon.com, DE Library System or you can borrow Dana's copy.
- 256 Fat Quarter Quilt Blocks ~ Jeanne Stauffer & Sandra Hatch
Source of blocks, with names, that could be used to represent the theme.
 - Available at Amazon.com (through 2nd sellers) or you can borrow Dana's copy
- 5,500 Quilt Block Designs ~ Maggie Malone
Fantastic source of blocks, with names, that could help you represent the theme.
 - Available at Amazon.com, DE Library System, or you can borrow Dana's copy
- Sylvia's Bridal Sampler from Elem Creek Quilts ~ Jennifer Chiaverini
Source of quilt blocks
 - Available at Amazon.com or you can borrow Dana's copy
- Farmer's Wife Sampler Quilt ~ Laurie Aaron Hird
Source of quilt blocks - has CD with patterns (some copies come with the CD, or you can purchase the CD separately)
 - Available at Amazon.com or DE Library System
- Carol Doak's 50 Fabulous Paper Pieced Stars ~ Carol Doak
Each star is named for a state
Carol Doak's Mariner's Compass Stars ~ Carol Doak
 - Both available at Amazon.com or you can borrow Dana's copies
 - The first title is also available through the DE Library System

This is just a sampling of books with a wealth of quilt blocks that could be used to represent "journey." Books on art quilting and design would be worth exploring, as well, for inspiration and to help you turn your ideas into a quilt. The guild website; resources page - bibliography, also has a good list of references to help you with the challenge.

Tips for Getting Started with a Theme Challenge

1. Get a folder, notebook or sketchbook to use during the creative process. Work in pen/marker - DON'T ERASE ANYTHING - everything could spark an idea.
2. Brainstorm variations of JOURNEY - use the thesaurus, Google the word, add words to create a phrase with journey.
3. Write all the things that come to mind when you think of JOURNEY.
4. Sketch symbols, pictures, shapes that come to mind when you think of JOURNEY.
5. Gather pictures/photos that you associate with JOURNEY.
6. Visit websites for sayings that contain the word JOURNEY or are about a JOURNEY. Search "journey quotes." Write down your favorite and don't forget to include the author or credit the source in your notes.
7. Write down your questions associated with the challenge to bring to the Feb. 13th "Getting Started" session.
8. Decide how you might translate your ideas/inspiration into a quilt
 - Art quilt - use applique, thread painting, embellishment and paint techniques
 - Use traditional blocks to represent your vision of "journey" -
 - the design represents the symbols you associate with the theme (maps, mountains, compass, sea, types of transportation, etc.)
 - the block name represents your idea (states, places, events)
 - if depicting your quilting journey consider doing a sampler of blocks from quilts you have made
 - Abstract - use color, words, blocks and art quilt techniques to represent an abstract portrayal of "journey"
 - Crazy quilt - fabric, color, embellishments, blocks that together represent your idea of "journey"
 - Quilt pattern - search books, catalogs for a quilt pattern that represents your image of "journey", for example Storm at Sea.
9. Give yourself time to allow the ideas to develop and come together.
10. Don't rush the process.
11. Don't fret, if at first, you seem to be at a loss for ideas.
12. Don't give up if frustrated - let your ideas rest or call Dana for support.
13. If life gets in the way and you can't finish, don't berate yourself - it happens to all of us at some time. There will be more challenges to join in.