

THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

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Pool of Life By Meni Kaghu ni Kaghu Mbugha



Meni Kaghu ni Kaghu Mbugha Continued

This artwork is called " Pool of Life". It is related to the meaning of the forest for the Bambutis (indigenous peoples) living in Epulu within the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in DR Congo. They view the forest as an enclosed world in which they are circulating and their cycle of life is taking place inside of that ecosystem. So, from birth to death and even after life, they belong in and live in the forest.

During my design process, that symbolic way of seeing the Forest as a Pool of Life made me think of a vessel full of water as a symbol of life. From its center grows the representation of the Nature (Mother) as a big tree; a tree with buttressed roots found in tropical forests.

If I have chosen the Center, it is because I read before that the Bambutis believe that it is in the center that the spirit of the forest dwells with all the ancestor's spirits after their death. And so that Center is sacred.

After visiting the Bambutis between 2011-2014, I had experienced and understood how connected the Bambutis are to their forest. Even if the government had asked them to live on the border of the principal road and promised more assistance for their living they always regret the fact that their life is not improved. But at the same time, it was obvious that they fear to go back into the forest because of the insecurity of armed group activity in the Ituri forest. So, I understood how endangered is the Bambutis culture and their forest. From that situation, I had thought that more consciousness about the forest of the basin of Congo and the population living inside would be important and one way I could incorporate it into my design.

Actually, many behaviors are from the new comers (who come for economic reasons to take advantage of the forest; exploitation and agriculture) . They arrive mainly from less rural areas around Epulu . Those People, of course, don't give so much respect to that ecosystem and Bambutis are changing their way of life, thinking to modernize it and forget their own. I do understand the fact that they have to improve their life, but I would prefer they also keep in mind ways that they might not affect their forest in doing so.

So from that threat to the forest and its people, the image of the beautiful vessel seems to change to something broken . Then any efforts made for the conservation of this ecosystem and its culture are like the golden dusted lacquer used in repairing a broken vase called kintsugi in Japan. To represent that I had applied a golden line on the surface of the base of the artwork.

The artwork is made of fabrics dyed using dyeing techniques I have learnt so far in Kyoto:

- the base : Japanese indigo dye and shibori (tie and dye) and gold foil

- the skirt : 16 layers of kimono fabrics . Among them 8 (short) are dyed with Ceylon tea , the other 8 (longer) are dyed in the lower part by the Japanese indigo and shibori; the middle part by resist paste stencil dyeing (katazome) with Indian indigo, madder, and pigments for Japanese traditional painting; the top part with ceylon tea by brush dyeing .

- the top is dyed with paste resist stencil dye (katazome) with Indian indigo, madder and the same pigments used for the middle part of the skirt.

This artwork is part of my final art project for my Master Studies in Textile Craft here in Japan. Research is based on the uses of natural dyes for dyeing cotton fabric. That's the story of this artwork.

STRATILAT by Hiltburg Wussow

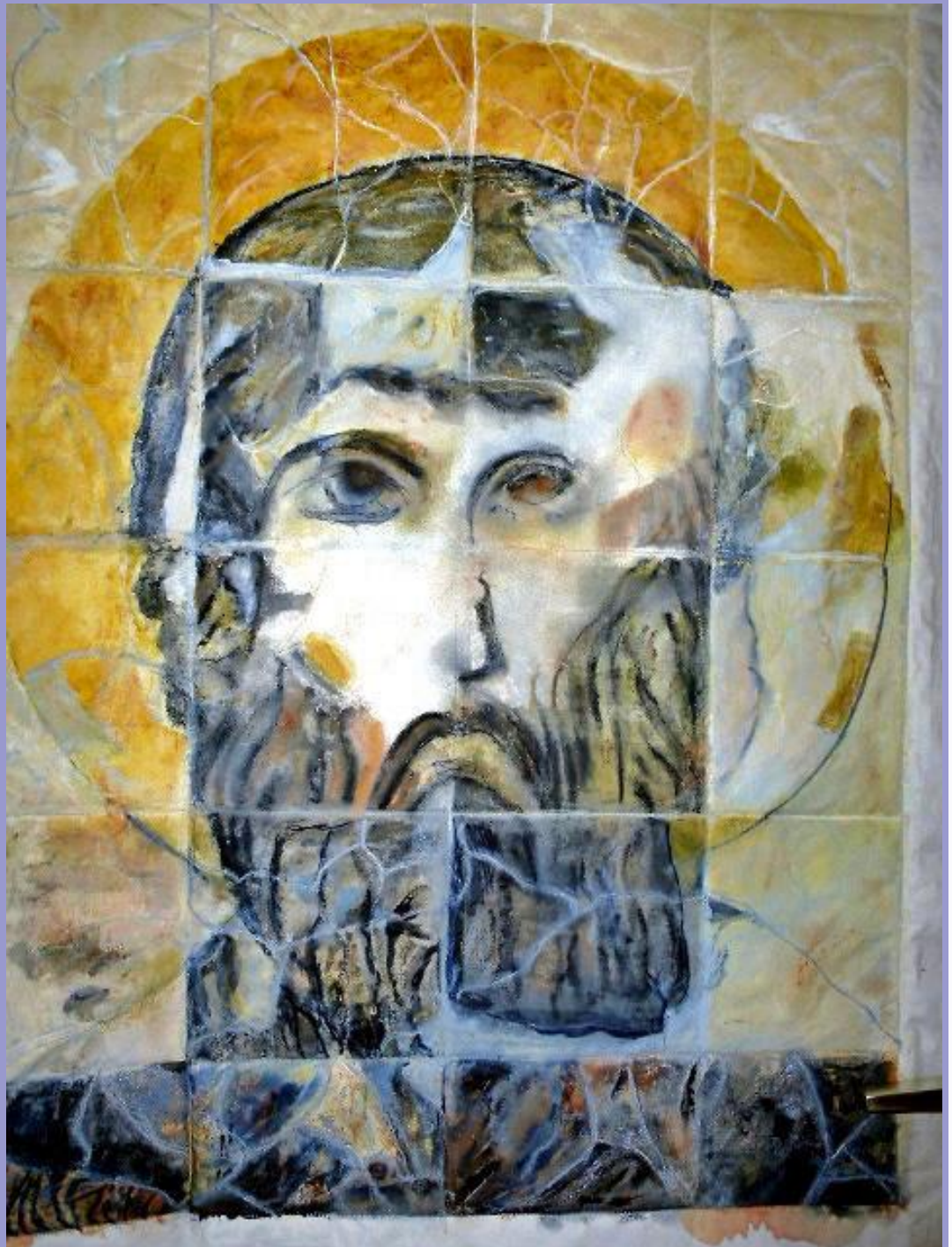
All the beauties of quilts I admire in your Newsletters are quite different to my „Stratilat“. This one is a quilt fulfilling all the conditions required for a quilt, with the small difference: he is painted with diverse colourtypes, -- fingers (!) and paintbrushes ----and has a rare look.

I choose a tall white fabric and prepared it with Gesso* to secure the applied colours. When dried I chose a normal filling and began to quilt the lines of the tiles (vertical and horizontal) The Icon is very old, 800 AD, logically smashed (naturally restaured). Stratilat hangs today in the National Museum of Sofia - Bulgaria. The original lines of the ceramic and the smashed pieces of them gives a fascinating impression. I quilted all the broken lines, then I painted the piece.

„Stratilat“ is accepted in the orthodox and the catholic Church as a Saint.

*Editor's note.

Gesso is a white paint mixture consisting of a binder mixed with chalk, gypsum, pigment, or any combination of these. It is used in artwork as a preparation for any number of substrates such as wood panels, canvas and sculpture as a base for paint and other materials that are applied over it.



Pam Jowett, Rotary Club of Albury NSW Australia, Down Under

Mum did a lot of knitting for the various country shows in the Mansfield area of Victoria, as well as knitting for the CWA (Country Women's Association), so of course I wanted to learn to knit as well. My craft journey started in the early 1950's when I would have been aged about 9 or 10 knitting dish cloths. Gradually I progressed onto bigger more exciting articles, clothes for my dolls, then onto jumpers & cardigans for myself. The yarn I knitted was 4 or 5ply wool, can't remember whether there was any problem getting the yarn to knit with, certainly there would not have been any acrylic yarn at that time.

When I was in my early teenage years there was a knitted pattern for a skirt and matching top, which I wanted to make for myself. The knitting was no problem as Mum had shown me how to read a pattern. The top was the problem, as it had crochet around the bottom, sleeves and neckline. Mum could crochet but couldn't read a pattern. My girlfriend's mother could crochet, so I asked her if she could help me with the pattern. She got quite a shock when she saw the pattern as it had quite a few trebles & double crochets in the pattern, (UK terms) not the easiest pattern to start on for someone who cannot crochet. The top was finished, and I wore it many times along with the skirt.

During the early 1960's I went to boarding school in Melbourne. It was during this time that I was introduced to weaving. I still have and use the first scarf I made. The yarn was a green 4ply wool, woven on a 4-shaft table loom.

When Albury/Wodonga Handweavers & Spinners Guild was formed in 1970 (48 years ago) my sister who had also done weaving at school asked me if I was interested in joining; of course I jumped at the opportunity. Since that time, we have both been members. A number of years ago we were both made life members and still take an active interest in the activities of AWH&S guild.

Gradually I was introduced to other different crafts, pottery, macramé, basket work, needlepoint, patchwork to name just a few. I have stayed with spinning, weaving, crochet, knitting and patchwork, of those 5 I think that spinning would be my favourite, particularly now that I have a Hanson e spinner and I don't have to carry a heavy spinning wheel.

I enjoy going to Rotary and helping where I can, with bar-be-ques and the fellowship of other club members. My late husband joined Rotary November 1969, over that period of time, we hosted exchange students from many different countries. Ray was President twice, he played the piano every week for Rotary grace & the National Anthem (both have gone to the archives), if he put his name down on the roster to do something & couldn't do it because of work commitments, I did it for him, so I feel that I have been a member of Albury Rotary for the past 49 years. We had 2 children and have 3 grandchildren.

Pam Jowett, Rotary Club of Albury NSW Australia, Down Under



Kangaroo for Christmas window competition 2012 & I won the basket of Goodies. Japanese themed quilt I made for my God daughter. Pleated log cabin cushion. Shashiko Japanese embroidery table runner. Knitted handspun scarf, made the fringe as I knitted it



Wrap a Smile Director Ann Demeranville

Director of Wrap-A-Smile Ann Demeranville, member of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, is also looking for additional volunteers to share the fun of gathering quilts. And it really is fun! Currently the majority of Wrap-A-Smile quilts are sent to us in Maine. The quilts are then labeled, vacuum-packed for ease of transport with medical missions, and then shipped to the projects we support, most of whom are in California. Our quilters generously cover shipping costs to get their quilts to Maine, and we continue to fundraise to cover the costs of shipping them to the medical teams. Everyone would benefit if we could reduce shipping costs! To that end, the idea of regional coordinators could work well to both expand our outreach and hopefully reduce the number of miles over which the quilts get shipped. Ideally, a regional coordinator would come from our Rotary network, including possibly a Rotary spouse. Ann's favorite comment is that "Wrap-A-Smile is the happiest of projects....happy for the quilters, and happy for the children we wrap with quilted love". If you have any interest in joining the fun, please contact Ann at quilts7780@gmail.com



Baby blanket
by Esther Arlan

From the Chairman Cheryl Minshew

Halloween--one of two uniquely American celebrations! Originally, celebrating All Souls Day, it has now evolved into an "all spirits, all gremlins, all characters day!" Children of all ages, from toddlers to grandmas, dress up in costume and have fun at school carnivals, dances, neighborhood gatherings, and church potlucks. Fall is my favorite time of year. Summer is finally over and leaves are turning all those beautiful fall colors signaling that Thanksgiving is on it's way (the second American holiday and my favorite - sharing food and fun with family and friends). And then comes winter, those wonderful Holidays, cold nights, rain, snow and the fireplace and the end of another year. Now we can wind down from all the excitement of the holidays and settle in to enjoy sitting near the fire and knitting, crocheting, or putting a binding on a quilt. Because now we have only five months before we must have a beautiful and well stocked booth at the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. 😊

The Fellowship website is in the works and hopefully will be up and running in time for our first Newsletter in the new year. And, speaking of that We need your help!!

Our Quilters and Fiber Artists Fellowship has actively participated in the International Conventions for many years and since 2007 has raised over \$80,000.00 for End Polio Now!! Over those years we have also made friends, met so many people, and visited glorious cities -- and we've taken lots of pictures. We'd like you to go through your collection of pictures and find any you may have that would memorialize the time, talent, and fellowship over the years. If you would email them to Marilyn Raymer they will be added to our collection and included in the first Newsletter of 2019. "Our Memories" edition. If you need help or have questions please don't hesitate to contact one of us - Marilyn, Diana, or myself. By the way, my email address has been changed to cminshew43@gmail.com. Stop by and say hi!! Until next time, I send you all wishes for the happiest of holidays and a very Happy New Year. YIRS, Cheryl

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Share ideas on facebook at [Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#). Or send ideas for articles to:

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Wrap-A-Smile is excited to announce that we now have an online blog which includes guidelines for our quilts, shipping information, and regular updates about the project. Please visit and subscribe

to: wrapasmilequilts.blogspot.com to keep up-to-date with our mission of providing comfort quilts for children receiving Rotary-related surgeries.



Marigold Korri of the Rotary Club of Accra East, Ghana sent this picture of her work. She is interested in connecting with others who do crochet to perhaps work together for something for the group.

You can contact her at:
goldiekay@hotmail.com