



A letter from Lisa Ellis, board president of SAQA

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the new board president of SAQA. This annual report highlights how SAQA is enhancing the creative lives of its members.

I began as a traditional quilter, piecing blocks and patterns. As I started to experiment with my own creative designs, I found that I could capture my most deeply held values and beliefs in my work. Textile art expresses such an expansive range of thoughts, experiences, and personal stories. As I view the work of others, I experience a myriad of feelings ranging from joy to grief, angst to peacefulness. Our artwork expands our worldview.

One of the board's goals for 2016 is to connect each of our members to like-minded artists in the SAQA community, both locally and globally. Ideas are exploding about how to do this given the challenges of different languages, interests, distances, and time.

Our newly formed committee for Regional Development will take on the challenge of extending more resources, programming, and connectivity to our regions. Our major fundraising initiative in the second quarter of 2016 will focus on this area. Other committees, including education and membership, are developing ideas to enhance the personal artistic growth of all our members.

In SAQA, we learn and flourish through community. Not just by sharing techniques and materials, but by sharing stories and perspectives. We build our community through exhibitions, publications, common experiences, and the laughter we share when we gather together.

“Our goal is to assist every SAQA member to grow their artistic practice wherever they are on the spectrum of success and capability.”

—Lisa Ellis

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When Studio Art Quilt Associates was founded in 1989, it was a small organization of fifty artists.

These artists were passionate about their work and wanted to make a place for it to be exhibited and appreciated in art galleries and museums.

Twenty-six years later, SAQA has a global membership of more than 3,400.

I am delighted that SAQA's membership continues to increase. Our membership is truly international, with 20% of our members now residing in 36 countries outside the United States. Such a large and diverse membership demonstrates that SAQA is effective in fulfilling its mission to advance the art quilt.

One of the accomplishments that I am particularly excited about is that in 2015, our exhibition program launched four new exhibitions and circulated a total of 12 exhibitions. These exhibitions visited 10 museums and 18 quilt venues in 9 countries.

Altogether, SAQA exhibitions were viewed by more than a quarter of million visitors in venues around the world — an amazing achievement. In addition, our regions produced and traveled a record number of regional exhibitions and hosted a wide variety of meetings, workshops, lectures, and mini conferences.

This is our first annual report. It is a celebration of our collective accomplishments, because SAQA could not thrive without the many members, supporters, and volunteers who work with our staff to bring our exhibitions, conferences, and publications to fulfillment.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have shared your passion, time, talent, and resources with SAQA.



Executive Director, Studio Art Quilt Associates

SAQA's 2015 highlights

- ▶ In 2015, SAQA's membership grew to 3,480, a 6% increase over 2014. SAQA expanded into 37 countries and now provides a website welcome page in French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. Calls for entry are now provided in seven languages.
- ▶ SAQA provided members with four quarterly *SAQA Journals*, highlighting established artists, techniques, and trends in the textile arts. SAQA also launched a vibrant new publication, *Art Quilt Collector*. Each issue focuses on a special art quilt collection belonging either to an individual or a museum.
- ▶ In 2015, SAQA traveled 12 exhibitions to 10 museums, 18 quilt venues, and 9 countries. The exhibitions were seen by more than 250,000 visitors. Four exhibition catalogs were published in 2015 including *Wild Fabrications*, *Balancing Act*, *Food for Thought*, and *Two by Twenty*. In addition, regional exhibitions were organized in 14 regions.
- ▶ SAQA implemented NEON, a CRM database to better manage membership information.
- ▶ The SAQA Fiberlandia Conference was held in Portland, Oregon, an important hub in the emerging "maker" movement. The conference was a huge success, attracting over 200 participants.
- ▶ Three webinars were presented and are now available on the website: *Inventory, Productivity, and Organization!* with Barb McKie, Susie Monday, and Jane Davila; *The Art of the Word: Getting Grants and Other Art Opportunities* by Maria Shell; *The Lifecycle of a SAQA Exhibition* from Gwyned Trefethen, Anne Hiemstra, Betty Busby, and Bill Reker
- ▶ The Membership Committee launched the popular Mentorship Program, which pairs members with a mentor to help them with their art quilt career.

Thank you to our 2015 donors!

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Fiber Revolution

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SAQA Budget 2015

Revenue

Membership fees	\$241,342
Conferences	\$114,078
Publication sales	\$30,053
Exhibit Income	\$79,393
Donations	\$91,281
Auctions	\$79,235
Other income	\$33,104

Total revenue \$668,486

Expenses

Program services:	
Conferences	\$111,623
Education	\$120,175
Exhibitions	\$135,145
Publications	\$94,144
Administration	\$199,953

Total expenses \$661,040

Net 2015 \$7,446

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