

## Local Connection Program Guide

SAQA will provide resources to identifying members in your local area to include in a local meeting. Secondly, it will provide sample program guides for presentations you could use for an introductory meeting. The materials provided for meetings will have content only available through SAQA.

The first resource will provide communication to members in your area. We also encourage you to invite your friends that might be interested in Art Quilts. We can provide printed materials about SAQA to share with everyone attending.

The second resource will provide program materials. The programs provided for meetings will have content only available through SAQA. Materials can be accessed on the SAQA website.

Resources open to Members and Guests include:

- Slide shows of SAQA Exhibitions
- Portfolios of SAQA member's Art
- SAQA Trunk shows

Resources open to Members include:

- Interest groups
- SAQA Seminars such as Stitch
- Mentorship Webinar

Regional Resources

- Whisper Quilt Project
- Facebook Page Quilt Show
- Regional Trunk Shows

## Program Guide for viewing an Exhibition on the Website

The guide includes directions on finding exhibitions in the SAQA website and activities to go with the viewing.

- How to access Exhibitions on the website. This guide uses Balancing Act as a sample any Exhibition on the website could be used.
- Statement about the Exhibition "Balancing Act"
- Juror's Statements
- Activities to go along with the viewing-pick one per meeting
  1. Critique process including a critique form and an outline of design elements to use for a group discussion
  2. Group activity-design and make a small quilt using the Theme of the viewed exhibition to present at the next meeting
  3. Write an artist statement for the quilt you designed. An outline for writing an artist statement is included.
  4. Discuss which Quilt inspired you to add a new level to your work

## Balancing Act

Art by: Misty Cole, Doria Goocher, Pat Bishop, Elaine Millar, Laura Wasilowski



View listing  
of artworks



View artwork  
as slideshow



Buy exhibition  
catalog online

Throughout history, women have had to balance responsibilities to community, home and family while pursuing other interests, jobs, or careers. From those who helped farm the land or worked in factories during wartime, to those who stand shoulder to shoulder with men pursuing careers, or serve as caregivers; women have always had to juggle the various aspects of their lives.

This show celebrates women past and present; what we have accomplished that we now enjoy as rights and freedoms that our grandmothers and their grandmothers did not; and what obstacles we have left to conquer. As art quilting is a predominantly female pursuit, this exhibit is particularly personal. It is an opportunity to show works that explore the daily lives, both internal and external, of women. As artists, we were free to explore what and who inspires us; what we find frustrating; what we are most proud of.

From serious to lighthearted, from literal to abstract, there are many ways to find balance. It can be found in formalism; in the pursuit of compositional balance and mastery of the medium that is fabric and stitch. It can be historic, spotlighting the people and events that contribute to our ability to achieve balance. But mostly, it's personal. Viewers are invited to find their own stories in the pieces presented and ask, what does balance mean to me?

**Balancing Act - Juror's Essay are available on line.**

# 1. Critique Activity

## CRITIQUE AND BEST-OF-SHOW

Individuals select one work to review:

**First Impression**—What is your immediate reaction to the work? List any words that come to mind.

**Description**—Come up with a list of everything you see in the work. Take inventory. The key here is to stick to the facts. Imagine you are describing the artwork to someone over the phone.

**Analysis**—How did the artist achieve certain effects?

Elements of Art: color, shape, line, texture, space, form, value

Principles of design: balance, contrast, emphasis, movement/rhythm, unity, and variety

Choice of materials

**Interpretation**—What is the artwork about from your perspectives. Art can be based on many things, color, subject matter, or social cultural issues.

What is the theme or subject of the work?

What is it about or what does it mean?

Why did the artist create this work?

What is the artist's world view?

Next you will determine the quilt you think should be best of show:

**Best of Show**--As the last step in your review of the trunk show, we want you to put yourselves into the shoes of the juror. Using what you have identified about this piece pretend you are a panel of jurors selecting the best-of-show. Why do you think your choice should be Best of Show?

Continue your discussion to determine which quilt has the greatest visual impact. Try to reach consensus and make a list as to why you think this quilt stands out.

In large groups select one of your members to present your decision to the larger group. As you listen to each of the presenters, think about what these quilts have in common. Is there similarity in the design elements that are emphasized? Did each group reach consensus?

Finally vote for the Quilt that you feel is the Best of Show.

## 2. Design a Quilt based on the Theme of the show viewed

Design a quilt based on the Theme of the exhibition viewed, "Balancing Act"

- Review the description of the Exhibition and discuss creative ideas for the basis of a quilt design.
- Decide on the size of the finished piece. It is best to make something small in 12"x12" to 12"x14". Let the group make the decision on the size.
- Set a date to share the quilts. This could be at the next meeting or a longer time frame based on what is comfortable to the group. Encourage people to bring quilts even if they are not finished.
- A follow up activity would be to write an Artist Statement about these pieces. This could be an activity for another meeting. (See program packet on Artist Statements insert here)

## 3. Design your Artist statement – workshop exercise

Write an Artist Statement based on the quilt you design for the Theme.

Give it a character, a theme: an emotional mood, or a topic like sky or biology or infotech; emphasis on color, reflections; migration and refugees, whatever. Add any clues (imagine the Prospectus dictates some) that would give the show more suitability for your piece today. Take notes of your ideas for the statement as you make the quilt.

(3-5 minutes)

**Make preliminary notes.** Look long and hard at your own work. Write all the ideas you can think of that match the theme of the show. Be creative, inventive, and BRAG about your work

(3-5 minutes)

**Start to write**, a long statement, any length is OK here. Capture all the good ideas in this one.

(5-7 minutes.)

**Start to redesign** to a set limit of words. Half the other one. **Check the verity** to be sure that what you stated matches your actual piece the jury will be studying. **Sophisticate it.** **Also edit by:** collapsing one idea into two adjectives in another sentence that will remain, for example. Cut and Paste (or piece) and Erase are the greatest tools here. Try to keep ALL the good ideas, but short form. **Hint:** at home use Word Count/ character count, spell check and cut and paste to improve it.

(5-7 minutes.)

Let's **present a few** samples now to see how they worked out.

**At home: research shows, enter shows, think about shows, attend shows.**

**Practice. Reiterate. Save the finished products** under each quilt's name in your records, so it is easy to find and refine them for a different show.

#### **4. Discuss which Quilt inspired you to add a new level to your work**

#### **Additional programs for Members that are offered by SAQA:**

**Resources open to Members include online programs. These could be viewed individually or as a group:**

- Interest groups
- SAQA Seminars such as Stitch
- Mentorship Webinar

Interest groups

Want to connect with other SAQA members? Learn more about a particular topic?

For 2017, SAQA will be offering a new series of online discussion groups called Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These meetings take place "virtually" using Zoom video conferencing technology. It's a fun way to meet other SAQA members and discuss art-related topics. Our first SIG is all about Mixed Media!

SAQA Seminars

The SAQA Education Committee has developed an exciting new project called **SAQA Seminar**, a multi-media collection of content on a specific theme designed to inform, inspire and connect SAQA members.

Mentorship Webinar

Three award winning SAQA artists: Dianne Firth, Sue Dennis and Judy Hooworth will share insights on incorporating their native Australian landscape in outstanding art quilts. Each will cover their individual process of viewing landscape and transitioning their thoughts into pieces of art. This webinar is bound to be an inspiration for all. We'll conclude with a brief Q&A session.

**Regional Resources-Your region may offer these additional programs. Contact your Regional representative.**

- Whisper Quilt Project
- Facebook Page Quilt Show
- Regional Trunk Shows