



## Art Quilts the Midwest (Bur Oak Book)

*Linzee Kull McCray*

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A milestone in perception occurred in 1971, when the Whitney Museum of American Art displayed quilts in a museum setting: *Abstract Design in American Quilts* bestowed institutional recognition of the artistry inherent in these humble textiles. In subsequent decades, quilting's popularity exploded. Some who took up quilting created pieced quilts that honored traditional patterns, symmetry, and repetition. But others saw the potential for pushing beyond patchwork, giving birth to the art quilt. Today, adherents from both art and quilting backgrounds incorporate storytelling, digital images, nonfabric materials, asymmetry, and three dimensions—in short, anything goes in the world of art quilting, as long as the result is stitched, layered, and not primarily functional.

As a writer covering textiles, art, and craft, Linzee Kull McCray wondered just how deeply fiber artists were influenced by their surroundings. Focusing on midwestern art quilters in particular, she put out a call for entries and nearly 100 artists responded; they were free to define those aspects of midwesternness that most affected their work. The artists selected for inclusion in this book embrace the Midwest's climate, land, people, and culture, and if they don't always embrace it wholeheartedly, then they use their art to react to it. The proof can be seen in the varied, powerful quilts in this energizing book.

Enlivened by the Midwest's landscapes and seasons, Sally Bowker paints her fabrics with acrylics, creating marks and meaning with layers of hand stitching and appliqued bits of fabric. Shin-hee Chin uses sketchlike stitching for its ability to penetrate fabric and create depth; living in the Midwest helps her stay balanced between eastern philosophy and western culture. The metals and mesh that Diane Núñez incorporates into her quilts connect to her days as a jeweler as well as to the topography of her home state of Michigan. Pat Owoc prepares papers with disperse dyes, then selects from as many as 150 to create her fabrics; her art-quilt series honors midwestern pioneers. Martha Warshaw photographs old fabrics, tweaks the images in Photoshop, and prints the results for her pieces, which connect her to the legacy of quilting in past generations.

The Midwest has always had strong textile communities. Now the twenty artists featured in this beautifully illustrated book have created a new community of original art forms that bring new life to an old tradition.

### The Artists

Marilyn Ampe, St. Paul, Minnesota

Gail Baar, Buffalo Grove, Illinois

Sally Bowker, Cornucopia, Wisconsin

Peggy Brown, Nashville, Indiana

Shelly Burge, Lincoln, Nebraska

Shin-hee Chin, McPherson, Kansas

Sandra Palmer Ciolino, Cincinnati, Ohio

Jacquelyn Gering, Chicago, Illinois

Kate Gorman, Westerville, Ohio

Donna Katz, Chicago, Illinois

Beth Markel, Rochester Hills, Michigan

Diane Núñez, Southfield, Michigan

Pat Owoc, St. Louis, Missouri

BJ Parady, Batavia, Illinois  
Bonnie Peterson, Houghton, Michigan  
Luanne Rimel, St. Louis, Missouri  
Barbara Schneider, Woodstock, Illinois  
Susan Shie, Wooster, Ohio  
Martha Warshaw, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Erick Wolfmeyer, Iowa City, Iowa

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#### **Linnie Martinez:**

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#### **Arthur Bailey:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get lots of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually Art Quilts the Midwest (Bur Oak Book).

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