

2024 Memorial Exhibit - Mary Kohler

Quilt No.	Title	Size	Description
173	Pacific Salmon	52 x 20	<p>This piece sits prominently above our bed. My wife and I live in Oregon and salmon are a large part of the identity here. We fish for salmon throughout the year. While Mom did go fishing with us once, we feel that the design for this quilt was inspired by her trip to Alaska years ago. So many of Mom's quilts feature her applique work, but what makes this one so unique is that in order to get the precise interior cuts needed, she pulled out her trusty scalpel that she still had from back in college. The bold simple colors really highlight the precise work she put into this piece.</p>
174	Christmas Wall Hanging	48 x 52	<p>Mom had a way with holiday pieces. She could certainly make Halloween creepy, but by far our family's favorites are her Christmas works. We didn't even know that this one existed until we went through her unclaimed and UFO projects. One of the neat things about her quilting was her growth over time and her willingness to take chances with design and color. This wall hanging has many classic elements that fit the aesthetic of a Vermont Christmas. This piece is an odd size for her and may be the result of a design that didn't quite work out as she had hoped. But it is one we gladly hang at our home to bring a bit of Vermont Christmas out to Oregon.</p>

175 North Bennington Train Station

29 x 18

Mom had been a resident of North Bennington since 1984. She often mentioned the train station as among her favorite buildings in North Bennington. She envisioned the train station in all its glory -- with a steam locomotive pulling into the station, releasing its full stack of steam. Her rare use of perspective in this wall-hanging brings the piece, which is 100% the product of her imagination, the semblance of realism, as though it was derived from a photograph.

176 Millenium Wall Hanging

18 x 60

We were residing in Austin, Texas at the time Mom made this wall hanging for us. In February 2021 we moved to Rutland, Vermont to be closer to Mom through her final years, especially once dementia took hold. This wall hanging has found a perfect home in the doorway of our 100-year-old Rutland house. It hangs there during the winter months and is admired by those who visit for its festive quality, vibrant colors and applique work. Many comment on the whimsical detail of the back -- Mom's signature style, if you will. Mom often exhibited her wonderful sense of humor through her quilting.

177	Wall Hanging for Renate Eberhardt	10 x 27	<p>Mom made this wall hanging for Renate Eberhardt, Karen's aunt, who lives in Mainz Germany and who passed away in 2023. Mom met Renate at our wedding on Long Island in 1988 and these two independent, strong-willed women hit it off immediately. Although an ocean separated them, whenever Renate visited us (we were living in Brooklyn at the time), she would venture up to see Mary in North Bennington for a few days. In turn, Mom visited Renate in Germany and got to know more of Karen's family in the Frankfurt and Munich areas. In later years, Mom and Renate became pen-pals and spoke regularly by phone. We cherish this wall hanging as a symbol of the close bonds that have existed between our two families for nearly 40 years. For this wall hanging, Mom used fabric from the wedding quilts of each of her four children.</p>
178	Guinea Fowl	43 x 23	<p>In the fall of 1992, Mom visited my husband and me in South Africa. During her two-week visit we explored Cape Town, the Garden Route, the Klein Karoo, the Transvaal, and big game country. We were captivated by the many faces of that enchanting country -- the landscape, the people, and the art. We loved the guinea fowl roaming along the side of the roads, and the local women effortlessly balancing their baskets and bundles on their heads as they gracefully walked home. Africa became a recurring theme in quilts that Mom made for me. I treasure this work in particular, and the beautiful memories that inspired them.</p>

179	Dragon Flies	31 x 34	This is another Africa-inspired quilt that Mom made, this one featuring dragon flies along with the women balancing baskets on wares on their heads. Love the soft, earthy tones in this quilt, reminiscent of the sands where we walked.
180	Friends	13 x 21	Mary gave me this quilt as a token of our friendship. She knew that my husband and I loved birds -- many times when she was visiting, she'd ask Jim about a particular bird. She knew that we were especially fond of Sandhill Cranes.
181	Cardinals	51 x 51	I watched Mary working on this quilt, which she made for the Silent Auction at the Bennington Museum. I so loved the cardinals and wanted to get this quilt for my husband, so I went to the Museum and put in a bid. I kept bidding on it until I was announced as the winner! In addition to cardinals, I love Mary's design using the Jacobean square. I'm so happy to have this quilt as a memory of my dear friend Mary.
182	Dragon Ladies	15 x 52	Mary and Linda Toohey met their friend Nicole Menard at the AQS Show, Paducah, KY in April 2009. The purpose behind the trip was to support Nicole for her appraisal certification. During the trip, we purchased background fabric at Hancock's of Paducah. Each of the three of us agreed to make 3 identical blocks, one for the other 2 people and one to keep. Mary's block is the nine patch (center block).