

MY CORNER OF THE WORLD

Connections and Discussion Points for Younger Visitors

My Corner of the World invited the artists to examine a world, real or imagined, that represented what is important in life. It might be where the artist resides, works, or grew up. It might be a favorite place from any point in life or a special internal place. My Corner of the World looks at the big picture including, but not limited to a homeland, ancestry or culture. We invite you to look at the art quilts on display and to take the time to ask questions about the artists' techniques, imagery, and intent. Discuss your thoughts. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions posed. Keep in mind that individual pieces may connect to others in more than one way.

1. Because these quilts won't necessarily be used on beds, art quilting is open to many ways of manipulating fabric and fabric-like materials. Just like places around the world vary, so do art quilts. Identify several traditional, and not-so-traditional techniques used in these art quilts:

- When shapes cut out of different fabrics are sewn together side by side to make a new design it is called *patchwork*, or *piecing*. Find one or more patchwork quilts.

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- When shapes cut out of one fabric are sewn on top of another fabric to make a new design it is called *applique*. Find one or more quilts which uses applique.

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- Many art quilters today use **photography** by itself and as a starting point. Find instances where photography is used in the artwork.

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- Quilters use stitches by hand or sewing machine to hold the layers of a quilt together. Some quilts also feature decorative **embroidery stitches** which add detail and texture. Find an example of embroidery stitches.

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2. Many places can be recognized by a landmark, local plants and animals, or an event in the area. Is it known for something specific? Choose one of the following artworks and see if you can determine where or what it represents. Have you been there? How do you know about it? Is it familiar or exotic? Is the artwork of a landscape, an icon, an event, or something else? (Suggested artworks: K Velis Turan, *Broadway El*; Alison Schwabe, *Purnululu*; Georgia B Heller, *Life on The Trail: Brown's Ranch*); Molly E Samuels' *Blue Heron*



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3. One's corner of the world can be tied to the place they grew up, their relatives, or the culture they practice. Compare Kate Madeloso's *A Vanishing Culture* to Millie Cummings' *Grande Artefacts* and Bodil Gardner's *My Childhood Country*. How do the artists portray homeland, ancestry or culture? In what ways are these corners of the world disappearing or enduring?

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4. Name a quilt that shows a landscape.

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Name a quilt that shows a city environment.

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Name a quilt that reflects an imaginary or fantasy "corner."

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5. Do you know the game I-Spy? Name the quilt beside the spied object:

A red ground:

A red and white (Danish) flag:

A phone:

A cactus:

A rabbit:

A red circle:

A yellow triangle:

A book:

A house:

6. Investigate themes in the artworks. How does the artist tell their story? Consider the similarities and differences in the following three artworks depicting water and sky: Bonnie D Askowitz, *The Sun Set Over Blackwater Sound*; Bethany E Garner, *Turning Point*; and Virginia A Spiegel, *Boundary Waters 60 (Rock Time)*.

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8. What do these art quilts say to you? What questions would you ask the artist? If you were to create a piece for My Corner of the World, what real or imagined corner would you create?

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Examples:

Patchwork and piecing:

Rolling Hills by Diane Firth
Turning Point by Bethany Garner
SPP 12 by Karen Schultz

Applique:

Oil Patch #1: Clutch Manifold by Bobbe Shapiro Nolan
Forced Removal by Claire Passmore
Blue Chair in the Library with a Candlestick by Laura Wasilowski

Photography and stitching over photos:

Shades of Italy III— Day Lily by Peggy Brown
New Mexico Schoolhouse by Jennifer Day
3rd and Main by Jill Kertulla

Embroidery stitches:

A Vanishing Culture by Kate Madeloso
Grand Artefacts by Millie Cumming
Prairie Afternoon by Jenny K Lyon

I-Spy (though only one example is listed below, there may be several quilts that contain the item to be searched):

A red ground: *Conflagration, Desolation, Rejuvenation, Jubilation #2* by Vicki Conley
A red and white (Danish) flag: *My Childhood Country* by Bodil Gardner
A phone: *Texting at the Food Court* by Kathleen Kastles
A cactus: *Life on the Trail: Brown's Ranch* by Georgia B Heller
A rabbit: *West Toward Home—Bright Spirit* by Ellie R Kreneck
A red circle: *Oil Patch #1: Clutch Manifold* by Bobbe Shapiro Nolan
A yellow triangle: *Alcove* by Carolyn Skei
A book: *Blue Chair in the Library with a Candlestick* by Laura Wasilowski
A house: *Evening in Steel Valley* by Martha Ressler