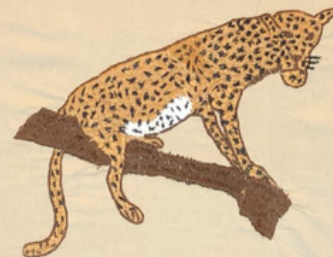


SISTER ARTISTS 2



***ART QUILTS FROM KENYA AND
NORTH AMERICA***



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PURCHASE A QUILT OR DONATE

The quilts in this catalog are being auctioned between March 8 and March 19 2022 to support the artists in Kenya. To enter a bid, visit

<https://advocacyproject.betterworld.org/auctions/sister-artists-kenya>
and follow the directions.

Production

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Appreciation

Our thanks to all who have supported this initiative, in particular Sister Artists from Kenya and North America who donated their work and artistry free of charge; Pamela Omidyar and Humanity United; Lori Kartchner and colleagues at the Textile Museum in Washington DC.



Access the Sister Artists Auction on Your Mobile Device!

1. Open your camera or QR Code reader on your phone.
2. Hold your device over the QR code on the left so that it is clearly visible within your smartphone screen.
3. Tap the "Betterworld" notification.
4. Browse at your leisure.

Sister Artists 2

A Celebration of Fiber Art from
Kenya and North America

*The Kangemi Advocacy Self-Help Group, Nairobi;
Shield of Faith/Tandaza Trust, Kibera, Nairobi;
The Advocacy Project, Washington D.C.*

March 2022

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Rest by Day - Hunt by Night by Christine (Nairobi, Kenya) and Ellen (New Hampshire, US)

FOREWORD

Sister Artists 2 is built around 41 wildlife designs that were embroidered in 2020 by women in the informal settlements of Kibera and Kangemi, Nairobi. The stitching was coordinated by the *Shield of Faith/Tandaza Trust* (Kibera) and the *Kangemi Advocacy Self-Help Group*.

After completion, the blocks were sent to The Advocacy Project in the US and distributed among art quilters from the US and Canada who had signed up. Many of the quilters also participated in the first *Sister Artists* quilt challenge in 2019, made from blocks that were embroidered in Mali.

The Kenyan *Sister Artists* were introduced to storytelling through embroidery when they made blocks for the Women's World Quilt at the ICPD25 UN Summit on Women and Girls in November 2019. Many are single mothers and were struggling even before COVID-19. The pandemic added tremendously to the pressure. They tell us that *Sister Artists 2* helped by giving them a creative outlet for their anxiety and an opportunity to socialize with friends at trainings.

The Kenyan *Sister Artists* have continued to work

together. Early in 2021, they reassembled to describe their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic through embroidery. Their designs were assembled into three spectacular quilts in the US and are being exhibited in Kenya and the US.

Sister Artists 2 has also strengthened women's civil society. The two groups of artists formed associations for the embroidery training and are now using these to advocate for better services. The *Kangemi Advocacy Self-Help Group* has launched a successful campaign to encourage COVID vaccinations. In Kibera, *Shield of Faith* has begun a vermiculture and composting project to improve nutrition and remove waste in Kibera.

We are deeply grateful to the *Sister Artists* from North America who have given their time and talent to produce these wonderful quilts. Many contacted their Kenyan Sisters while they were at work and report that it gave them a powerful sense of the challenges facing women in Kenya.

The quilts will be auctioned between March 8, 2022 - International Women's Day - and March 19, 2022 with profits going to the two Kenyan groups. Our deepest thanks to Gill Rebelo, Sigrun Hansen, Christine Kibuka and Bobbi Fitzsimmons; to the Textile Museum in Washington for exhibiting the quilts; and to Humanity United for generous financial support.

Firefinches



19.5" Wide x 17.5" Long



Detail of Floral Motifs



Stella was born in Mombasa County on the coast of Kenya and currently lives in Nairobi with her family. She has seen the struggles of single mothers and how poverty marginalizes people within communities. Stella says that it is heartbreaking to meet women and young people with big dreams and great potential who remain disadvantaged because of the lack of opportunity. She hopes that her work with the Tandaza Trust and *Shield of Faith* will make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Stella has thoroughly enjoyed this project and found it very therapeutic.

Judy was delighted to receive Stella's embroidered piece. It is masterfully stitched and Judy was determined to give it a setting that showcased its beauty and personality.

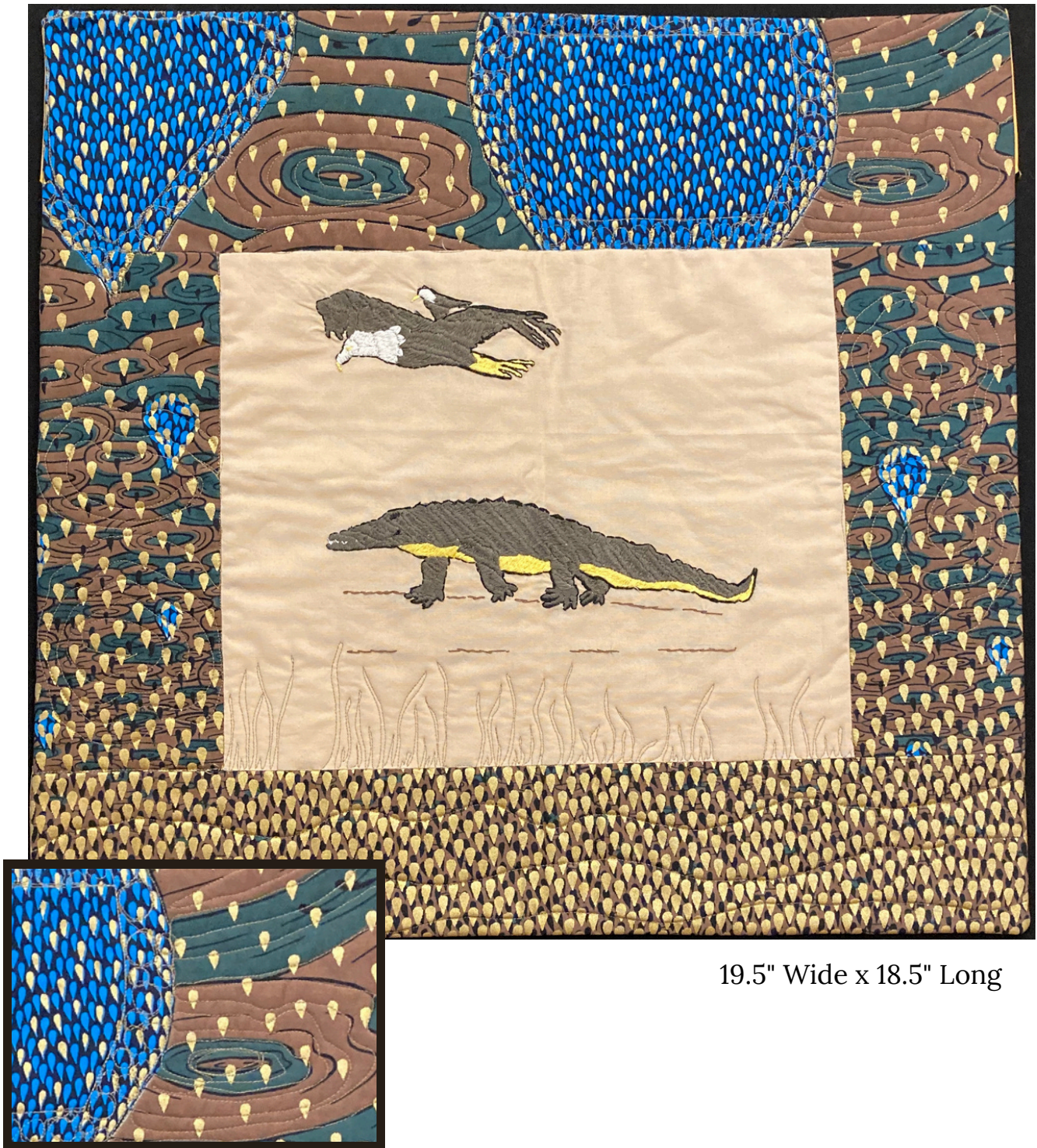
Putting marks on fabric, whether with paint, dye, or thread, brings Judy joy and her quilt incorporates several of these techniques. She drew the central piece and then used water color to create a setting for the red finch. Judy then added touches of embroidery to link to the original piece. She used hand-dyed linen for the borders, and hand and machine stitching for the final quilt.

"Though Kenya and California are a world apart, they have been joined by art and a love of craft," Judy says. "I am honored to have shared this adventure with my Sister Artist."



Original Embroidery Block

The Crocodile and Eagle



19.5" Wide x 18.5" Long

Detail of Stitch Work



Caren is a single mother of two boys – her son, 12, and her nephew, 18 months. She was brought up in a humble background with 12 siblings. Caren is the 10th born. Both her parents are still alive although they are dealing with chronic illness. Caren got a diploma in Community Development and entered Moi University to study for her degree, though she had to defer for the last three years to take care of her dad.

Caren was introduced to the AP quilting program by Teresia (profiled on page 53). She finds embroidery very therapeutic.

Caren is a community service provider by profession. She is very passionate about giving back to society and helping vulnerable families. In Kangemi, she mentors adolescents, girls and young mothers to deal with challenges like gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.



Juandamarie started quilting 15 years ago. She is the founding president of the *Princeton Sankofa Stitchers Modern Quilt Guild* and her quilts have been exhibited at venues that include the Ellarslie House/Trenton Museum; the Montclair History Center; venues in Boston and on Martha's Vineyard; and the *Response to Gee's Bend* exhibition at Swarthmore College.

Juandamarie was excited to participate in *Sister Artists 2*. She has traveled to Kenya numerous times and felt honored to have been paired with Caren Mbyaki, who led the Kangemi team. "I've had the delight of corresponding with Caren," Juandamarie reports. She looks forward to collaborating on future projects.

Juandamarie used African fabrics to represent the water and the habitat of the crocodile in her block. The quilt is machine-quilted with free-motion details to enhance the embroidery.

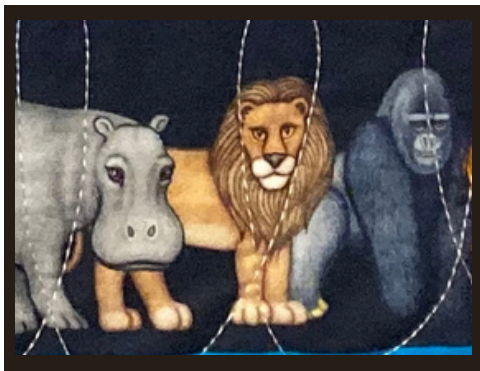
Original Embroidery Block



The Finest Rhinoceros



29" Wide x 26" Long



Details of Animal Motifs



Irene was born in Voi, a town in Taita-Taveta County. Her family later moved to the border town of Busia in Western Kenya where she finished secondary school and moved to Nairobi in 2012 to study Hairdressing and Beauty.

Irene dropped out of college due to lack of funds but has since continued to pursue short contracts in various salons in Kibera. She aspires to complete her course and open her own salon.

Irene is married and lives in Ayani, Kibera with her three daughters. She joined the project in October 2019 when her recently born daughter was a few months old. The project has been an enjoyable experience for Irene and she looked forward to participating each week.

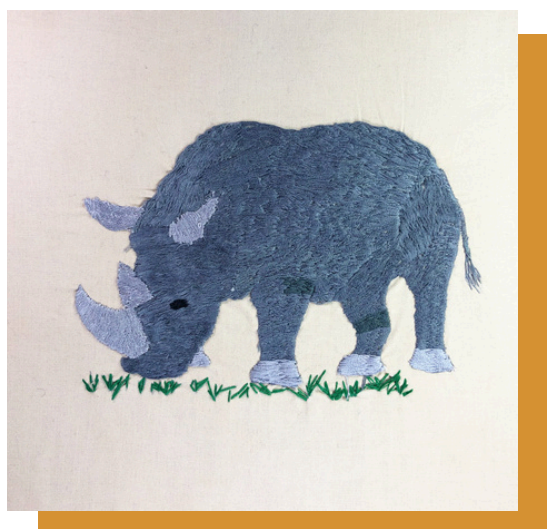


Veronica has been quilting in earnest for five years and gave up teaching in the summer of 2019 to quilt full-time. She runs her own company, *Conaky's Quilt Company*, and produces vivacious quilts, usually in an African style.

The Finest Rhinoceros is built around a beautiful hand-embroidered centerpiece and surrounded by rich border-stripe fabrics featuring African animals. The quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted with free-motion details in each border. Veronica used machine stitching, cotton fabrics, batting and thread.

Referring to Irene in Kenya, Veronica says: "It's a blessing to collaborate with such a talented Sister Artist!"

Veronica is a member of two guilds in Rhode Island – *Quilters by the Sea* and *Rhode Island Threads* – as well as *Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)*.

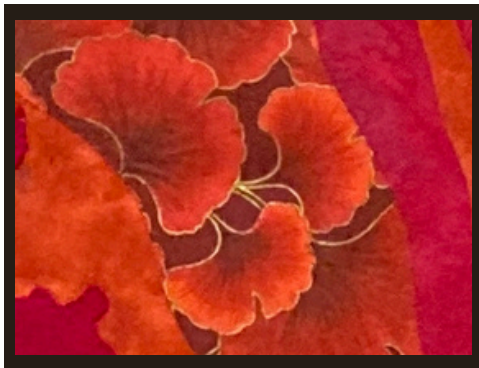
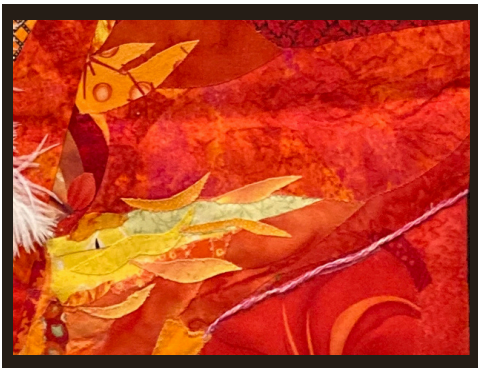


Original Embroidery Block

Ostrich



31" Wide x 22" Long



Details of Fabric Patterns and Feathers



Catherine is 23 years old. She is married, without children. Catherine likes cooking and reading. This project has been good for Catherine. She has learned a lot and really appreciates everything it has brought her



Deborah is a mixed media artist, although she mostly works with textiles. Though contemporary in every sense, her art owes much to traditional “women’s work” and is done mostly by hand using a needle and gentle materials such as thread, floss, and beads. Deborah also uses more modern, edgier materials such as Tyvek, Fosshape, and even objects that she finds.

Deborah’s artwork is detailed. It often relies on reflective surfaces and tiny, rich elements, and does not always neatly fit typical categories. She uses collage, 3D and heavily worked or embroidered surfaces as well as art quilts and weaving.

Deborah loves the process of making quilts, but her work is always driven by an idea. Her recent art has explored issues of incarceration and she has depicted prison cells that draw from photos she took at Alcatraz. Her current project involves 3D images referencing Paleolithic cave mark-making.

Ostrich is surrounded by bright fabrics that have been fused together in free-form pieces. Deborah then quilted around many of the small pieces to ensure their stability. She added the ostrich’s tail of white feathers and included a stabilizer inside the quilt to ensure that the feathers are not bent. The quilt also has machine piecing and quilting.

Deborah has shown her work on six continents and curated over a dozen art exhibitions. Her art has appeared in journals online and in print. She is delighted to be collaborating with The Advocacy Project!



Original Embroidery Block

Warthog on the Move



24" Wide x 18" Long



Details of Stitch Work
and Beading



Carol grew up in Southern California. She practiced law for 30 plus years, then joined two textile art groups: *Quilts on the Wall Textile Artists* and *Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)*.

Carol loves to travel around the world, taking photographs and visiting art galleries. She put Kenya on her must-see list and, during her visit, was lucky to see warthogs running across the hot, dry, African landscape wagging their tails in the air. It was an amusing sight!

Carol chose Everline's warthog because it brought back wonderful memories of her visit to Kenya. She opted for background colors that match Everline's embroidery and theme, and then wove gold metallic threads loosely across the top. Finally, Carol added glass beads to create texture and give an impression of heat from the African sun.

Carol's art projects have been published in *Quilting Arts Magazine* and the *Art Quilting Studio Magazine*. Her quilts have been exhibited at many shows and art galleries across the United States. Carol is chair of the Exhibit Committee for the *Quilts on the Wall* guild in Seal Beach California, and as such has organized the artwork of members into themes: Sunrise/Sunset, Life's a Beach, Heat, Ice/Cold/Frozen, Fiddling with Fabric, to name a few.



Everline is 25 and the youngest member in a family of nine. She is a single mother of one boy, three years old. She does not have a regular job but washes clothes to earn a living and to support her child and parents.

Everline is glad to be in this project and hopes it will continue because it gives her lots of support.

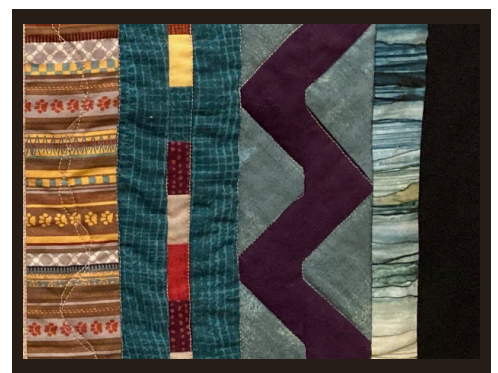
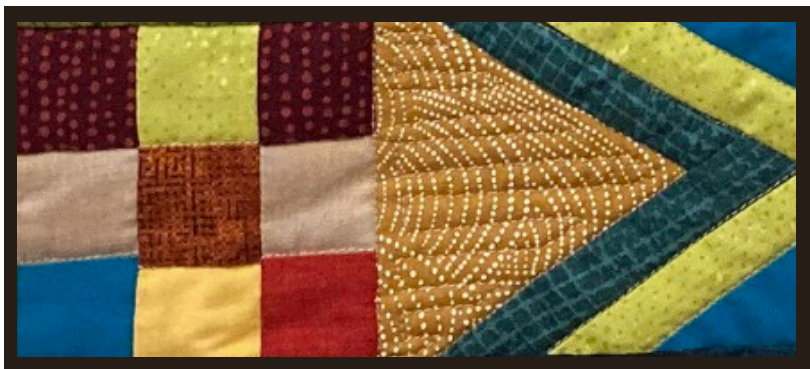


Original Embroidery Block

Thomson's Gazelle



24" Wide x 18" Long



*Details of Needlework
and Patchwork*



Eunice is the single mother of two young adults and has lived in Nairobi since 2016. Her mother and siblings reside in Nakuru County where she schooled and completed courses in community development and social work.

Life was really hard in Nakuru. Eunice traveled to Nairobi in search of greener pastures but was forced to work as a domestic worker, washing clothes to support her children and family in Nakuru. Her personal experience and life struggles have given her the resolve to help vulnerable and disadvantaged mothers and young people who struggle with poverty, drug addiction and gender-based violence. At Tandaza Trust she found a good opportunity to work closely with those who live in the informal settlement of Kibera.

Eunice says she never knew about embroidery until she learned it for the first time in October 2019, while training for the Woman's World Quilt. She says that it has brought her joy every bit of the way.



Nairn began quilting in 1989. In the early years she was self-taught but has since learned much from attending inspiring workshops. Prior to *Sister Artists 2*, Nairn had only done hand quilting and is relatively new to machine quilting. As a quilter it is always good to have a new challenge!

When planning her design for *Thomson's Gazelle*, Nairn's first goal was to enhance and complement the lovely embroidery. Her quilt features many different sections of patchwork, from tiny squares to little circles, that are all pieced by machine. The quilting is done by machine in free-motion style.

This is Nairn's second entry for a *Sister Artists* project. She is very happy to be involved in an endeavor aimed at improving the lives of her sisters around the world.



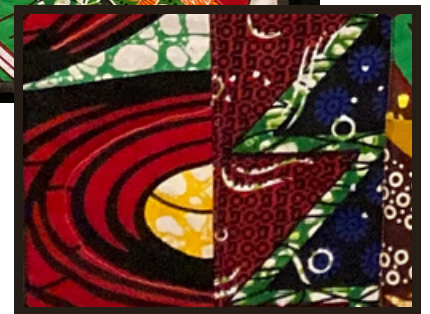
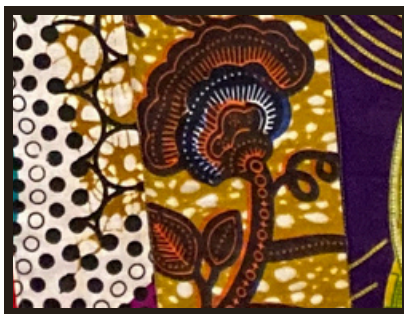
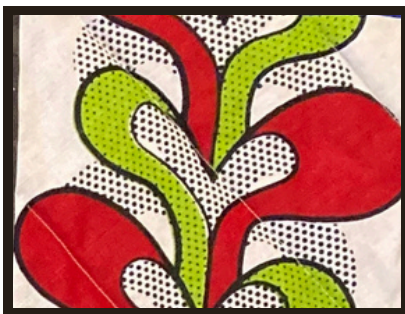
Original Embroidery Block

Hope for the Rhinoceros



36" Wide x 36" Long

Details of Patterns and Stitch Work





Spencer is 21 years old, the second born in a family of six that comprises four children and two parents. She currently does volunteer work while she looks for ways to help her parents and siblings. She recently joined the Kangemi embroidery group and is very happy to be a member.

Original Embroidery Block



Peg has been quilting and teaching for over 30 years. She contributed to *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) in 2018 and continues to be inspired by the incredible work of her southern sisters.

In designing her quilt, Peg contacted Spencer, her Kenyan Sister Artist, and researched Kenya's famous Lake Nakuru. This is the lake depicted in Peg's quilt. She sent photos of her quilt to Spencer and truly hopes that she is pleased with the result.

In her quilt, Peg used photo transfers to complement the rhinoceros. She used fabric from her collection of African prints to represent the vibrancy and beauty of the continent of Africa and the machine piecing is done with different African fabrics. Peg then used big-stitch hand embroidery to further embellish the quilt which she then machine pieced.

Peg has worked with young Africans in her career as an educator in nursing. She says that being part of *Sister Artists 2* is an honor and hopes that her contribution will assist more women to participate in the hobby that she loves. Quilting is a very large part of Peg's own identity and a source of peace, pride, and satisfaction which has helped her to survive the pandemic.



Water Buffalo



31" Wide x 32" Long



Details of Piecing



Betty is 22 years old. She is mother to a son, and member of a family of six. Her parents are small-scale farmers from up-county. Betty's level of education is Form 4 and right now she is working towards achieving her goal so she may live a better life. She thanks this project and AP for all the support, especially at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Original Embroidery Block



Most of Jessica's experience is with drawing and painting and she drew on both these skills to make her wonderful quilt.

Jessica visited Kenya in 2013 to volunteer with a youth-empowerment center for homeless children and teens. She drew on this experience in making her quilt and tried to capture the feel of the expansive Kenyan sky and landscape. The experience taught Jessica that young women can be strong and resilient. The two figures in her quilt honor those she met during that visit.

Jessica has chosen a color palette to match the fabrics she brought back from Africa and uses the fabrics in the two figures at the bottom. She placed the water buffalo at the center of her quilt to honor the embroidery skills of her Kenyan sister artist, Betty, and used intricate and innovative piecing to make the sun. Jessica used a combination of raw-edge applique and machine piecing to make her quilt, which is machine-quilted.

Jessica hopes her quilt will bring joy to its new owner and further the important mission of AP.

Hyena on the Hunt



41.5" Wide x 40" Long



Details of Fabric
Patterns



Abigael is a 25 year-old Kenyan citizen and the mother of three kids, two boys, one girl. She is happy to work on this project since she doesn't have a job and embroidery work has made her proud of herself. Through it she has gained a lot of experience. At this difficult time it has helped a lot. Abigael prays that this work will continue and create job opportunities for young people. She really appreciates all that it has done for her.



Original Embroidery Block



Victoria describes herself as "65 years young and retired." She likes to sew, read, travel, and volunteer.

Quilting is part of Victoria's family heritage. Her grandmother used a treadle-foot sewing machine. Victoria herself has been sewing since she was eight, and quilting since she was 18. Her mother taught Victoria and her three older sisters to sew on a Singer machine when Victoria was eight. Both of her daughters can sew and quilt. Everyone made fabric face masks this year.

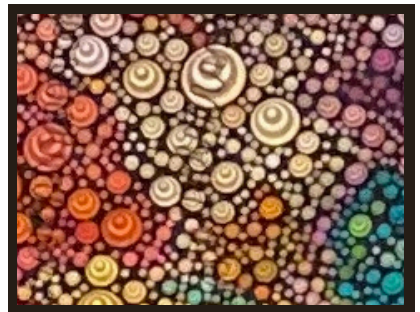
Victoria enjoys people, art, and mixing fabrics and colors. She finds hand quilting very relaxing and likes to use natural fabrics like silk and cotton. She has made – and given away – many quilts. Victoria completed *Hyena on the Hunt* almost entirely by hand. She chose fabrics and colors to reflect and complement the embroidered hyena.

Victoria supports The Advocacy Project because it helps women around the world who need assistance.

Sunshine on Kenya



33.5" Wide x 27" Long



*Details of Patterns
and Stitching Work*

Christine Danler



Wilmington, North Carolina

Christine has been quilting for over 20 years. She remembers how her mother's quilting bee met every other Thursday and how she socialized with the ladies every time a bee was hosted at her house: "My mom was very involved in the bee and guild, and I was always interested in the arts. But I didn't really take an interest in quilting until I was in my twenties."

Christine was attracted to *Sister Artists 2* after seeing the amazing quilts that came out of the first *Sister Artists* (Mali) project: "The design for my quilt was inspired by the baobob trees in Africa, which you think about when picturing the African grasslands. I thought, 'Well, the baobob tree is pretty cliché, so let's jazz it up a bit with this funky fabric and offer a nice alternative to the more traditional landscape scenes!'"

In the upper left corner, you can see some decorative stitches that depict a sun spreading its rays over the tree. An outline of Kenya is quilted into the background to the left of the tree trunk. Decorative ribbon outlines parts of the background blocks.

Christine wanted to keep the quilting simple so as to not take away from the embroidered rhino. She really enjoyed working on this project, and wishes the embroiderers the best of luck!

Loise is 41 years old and earns a living by selling handmade liquid soap. She is a mother of one son, Marques, who is 13 years old and in grade seven. Marques likes playing soccer and marbles. Louise is grateful to have learned new skills through this embroidery project.



Loise Tsindoli Mbelesia



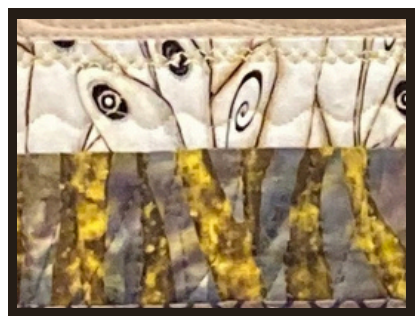
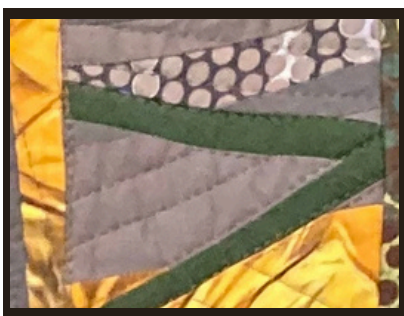
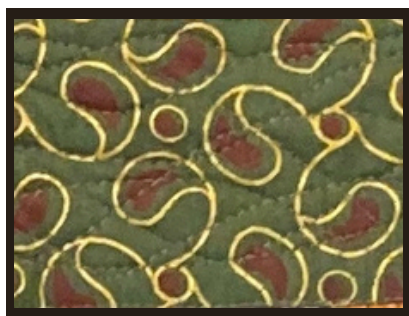
Kangemi, Kenya

Original Embroidery Block

Queen Mother



36.5" Wide x 33.5" Long



Details of Stitch Work



Diana is a mother of one and a teacher by profession. She was working in a private school before the COVID-19 pandemic. Diana was introduced to the embroidery group by a friend. She really enjoyed the work and thanks AP so much for this opportunity.



Original Embroidery Block

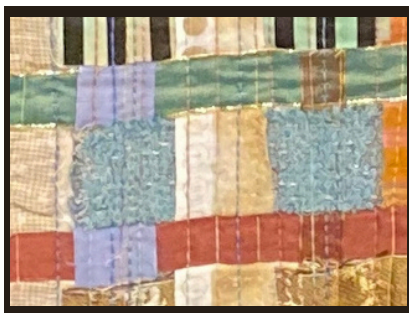
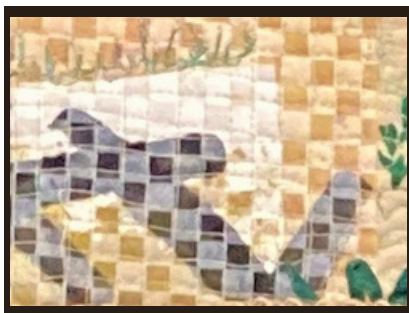
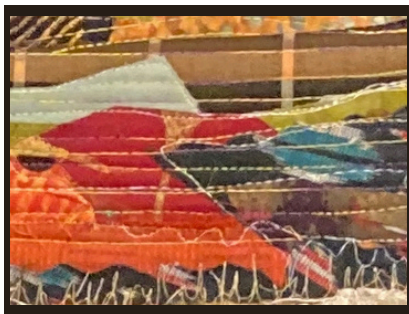


Julie took art training while at university in California. She is particularly interested in women's issues and took part in *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) because she was drawn by the cause and hoped to make a connection with women in Africa.

Julie chose one of the embroidered lions for *Sister Artists 2* (Kenya). She created intricately-pieced borders that play off the colors in the embroidered block. She used African fabrics and applied free-motion quilting.

Julie is a member of *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA); the *Modern Quilt Group*; *Contemporary Quilters*; and *Fiber Artists in the Bay Area*.

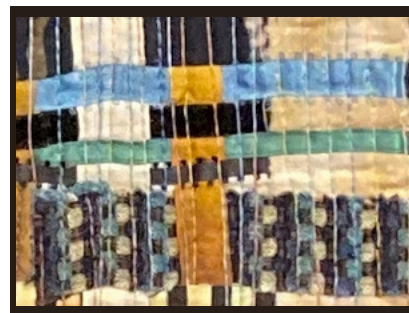
Crested Cranes



Details of Stitching



12" Wide x 49" Long



Details of Mixed Fabrics



Original Embroidery Block

Meriline Ingaso



Kangemi, Kenya

Meriline is 25 years old and a mother of two girls. The first, aged 6, is in baby class. The second, 3, is not yet in school. Meriline earns a living as a mentor. She does voluntary work to empower girls on how to protect themselves in the pandemic. There have been a lot of challenges, like buying food and paying rent, but Meriline gets a little support from washing clothes. That is how she survives.

There's nothing Eleanor likes better than to pair her two favorite pursuits in life: art quilting and volunteering for social justice.

Eleanor enjoyed working with *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) and is thrilled to partner this time with an amazing Kenyan woman, Meriline, whose embroidered *Crested Cranes* called out to her. She hopes that their combined artwork will convey a sense of the beauty of Kenyan wildlife. Even more, Eleanor hopes their work will lead to an understanding of Meriline's life in Kangemi, an under-served neighborhood of Nairobi and the need for equity, empowerment, human rights, and support.

The shape and techniques of this collaborative art quilt reflect Eleanor's background. She is the author, editor, and producer of many quilting books. One book in particular, *Skinny Quilts & Table Runners* and *Skinny Quilts & Table Runners II*, helps to explain why Eleanor chose a long, narrow shape to showcase the birds in *Crested Cranes*.

In an earlier chapter of her life, Eleanor used to weave, using a huge loom that took up much of her home. Now, her off-loom techniques, enhanced with quilting, are easier and much more fun. They allowed Eleanor to play up the extraordinary colors of the cranes, and are at the core of her most popular workshops for quilt guilds.

Eleanor is a Pennsylvania representative for *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA) and is honored to have worked in SAQA's regional and global exhibitions. As a volunteer advocate for the *National Council of Jewish Women*, she raises awareness for quality early childhood programs, and for fair, qualified, and diverse federal courts. She and her husband are fortunate to live and work in the vibrant and exciting center of Philadelphia. They also have quite a bit of world travel under their belts. Who knows? Perhaps a trip to Kenya lies ahead!

The borders for Eleanor's intricate quilt mirror the colors in the embroidered block. Eleanor has used some African fabrics and free-motion machine quilting.

Eleanor Levie



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Elephant Walk



20 "Wide x 23" Long



Detail of Fabric and Paint

Harriet Njeri Karuiki



Kangemi, Kenya

Harriet is 22 years of age. She was born and currently lives in Kangemi. She was raised by a single mum and is the first-born of 3 children – 2 girls and 1 boy. Harriet first did embroidery in 2019, when she made a story for the *Woman's World* quilt, produced at the ICPD25 UN conference in Nairobi. Harriet is so honored to work with the team again on *Sister Artists 2*. She has learned a lot and acquired lots of new skills. Harriet looks forward to working with the team again.



Original Embroidery Block

Glenda Mah



Salem, Oregon

Glenda is primarily a Shibori textile artist, though she also enjoys collage quilting. She tries to incorporate naturally-dyed fabrics into her pieces, especially indigo.

Glenda draws heavily from the natural world for her art and tries to make a statement with each piece. She is also drawn to creating pieces that highlight social issues. Glenda sews for the *Social Justice Academy*, an organization that creates memory banners for victims of violence. Her piece *Roots* was selected by *Artists Against Racism* and also displayed as part of a exhibition series *Art & Social Justice: Art for the People by the People* at the Ellington-White Contemporary Gallery in Fayetteville, NC.

Glenda is so glad and honored to be part of *Sister Artists 2* and hopes her treatment of Harriet's block will bring joy. Glenda incorporated fabric that she mud-dyed with a print design and highlighted the colors in the block by using batiks. In making *Elephant Walk*, Glenda used a simple geometric quilting pattern so as not to detract from the fantastic Kenyan embroidery.

Glenda is a member of the *Mid-Valley Quilters Guild* in Salem, Oregon. She also belongs to a wonderful sewing group called the *Knotty Stitchers*.

Sunrise at the Water Hole



34" Wide x 38" Long

Detail of Fabric and Stitching



Original Embroidery Block



Elizabeth is a born-again Christian, married with three children - two boys and a girl. She is a tailor by profession. Elizabeth was introduced to embroidery by a friend in 2020 and loves it!

Bobbi has an EdD in education and has been an early childhood educator for years. She began sewing at an early age, making most of her own clothes until she found quilting in her 20's. From that point forward, she combined her love of working with young children with her passion for quilting. She has used her quilts to share many valuable lessons with children, such as the importance of persistence and the joy of sharing.



Bobbi coordinates all quilting initiatives for The Advocacy Project. In this position, she helps women and girls from the Global South to tell their stories through embroidery and connects them with quilters who turn the stories into finished quilts. In 2021 Bobbi spearheaded an exhibit of COVID-19 quilts from Nepal, Zimbabwe, and the US at the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC. *Sister Artists 2* is her latest project.

After the Kenya animal embroideries were selected by the Northern Sister Artists, one block remained. Bobbi took this to make her own quilt. Having visited Nairobi in November 2019 and helped these same ladies complete the *Woman's World* Quilt, Bobbi decided to reflect the landscape of Kenya. She used subdued and vibrant colors of Africa in her design, and acknowledged one of her favorite issues – protecting the environment – by showing Elizabeth's antelope going to the water hole. She hopes her Kenyan Sister Artist will approve.

Bobbi's quilt uses different methods of piecing: hand-pieced octagons, strip piecing, and raw-edge applique. There is some unique open-work near the bottom border which frames strands of African style beads. The border is African fabric and the piece is machine-quilted.

Bobbi is a member of *Swan Lake Quilt Guild* (Sumter, SC); *Quilters By the Sea Guild* (Wilmington, NC); and *Studio Art Quilts Associates* (SAQA).

Born to be Wild



17.5 "Wide x 28.5" Long



Detail of House Fabric



Jackeline stays with her mother, two sisters, and two brothers. She is the mother of a young boy. Jackeline likes traveling and was introduced to embroidery in 2020. She really enjoys it!



Original Embroidery Block



Mary learned quilting from her sister and has been quilting for 10 years. The two sisters enjoy quilting together and invite you to visit their blog: www.quiltingsistersunravelled.wordpress.com.

Mary was introduced to The Advocacy Project by Bobbi Fitzsimmons, who was a Board member of her then guild *Quilters by the Sea* in Wilmington, NC. Mary loves making fabric art wall hangings and is always experimenting with new techniques. Creating fabric art for a good cause, which enriching someone's life in the process, brings Mary much joy.

Mary was happy to receive her block and was attracted to the hippo's sweet face. She surrounded the block with wonky log cabin blocks and added a little hand stitching around the hippo for some additional texture. The color scheme represents the water, grasses and the land. The top border fabric (village print) was donated by a fellow guild member and provided just the finishing touch this quilt needed.

Mary loves a challenge and this one was extra special. It was an honor to highlight such beautiful embroidery work.

Playful Monkey



24 "Wide x 33.5" Long



Detail of Stitching



Pauline is 22 years old. She comes from a family of six and is a volunteer in the community where she lives. Pauline was introduced to embroidery by Caren Mbyaki, coordinator of the Kangemi group, and has used the project to improve her stitching skills, for which she is very grateful.



Aarti started quilting in 2019 when she decided to make two quilts for babies and has not stopped since. Aarti recently started making garments as well.

Aarti learned about *Sister Artists 2* through a fellow member of the *DC Modern Quilt Guild* and was drawn to the project when she saw the amazing blocks from Kangemi and Kibera.

In working on Pauline's beautiful block, Aarti wanted to play off the colors and elements chosen by the artist. She decided to add the green and orange frame, and then added paper-pieced leaves. Aarti says: "I love the precision of paper piecing and the complex elements you can create."

Aarti has been in touch with Pauline and was so pleased to hear that Pauline feels she is constantly improving. Aarti feels the same - she learns new techniques with each quilt she makes. The quilt is finished with hand and machine quilting.

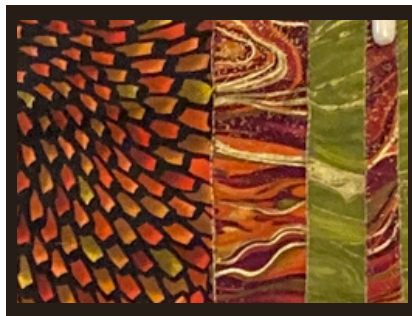


Original Embroidery Block

Snake in the Grass



28 "Wide x 32" Long



*Details of Fabrics
and Patterns Used*

Maureen Weingaya



Kangemi, Kenya

Maureen is 35 years old and is the oldest child in her family. She is a single mother with one son. Maureen does community work, mentoring adolescents and young mothers.



Original Embroidery Block

Anne Watson



Wilmington, North Carolina

Anne was born in England and learned to sew at an early age. There was no television, only radio, at the time and her aunts would listen while they did their knitting, quilting, embroidery, and tatting. Anne was encouraged to sew along! Sewing at school was also part of the school curriculum. Anne had to take out the stitches on her first knitting project so many times that the yarn turned from light pink to dingy grey!

Anne became interested in quilting in the late 1960s when she came to America. She enjoys art quilting and experimenting with textures. Her first quilt was a block-by-block by Georgia Bonesteel and she progressed from there. In 2020 she produced a spectacular quilt for The Advocacy Project from embroidered blocks that told the story of COVID-19 in Nepal.

Snake in the Grass is built around the embroidered snake from Maureen in Kenya. In designing the quilt, Anne added a second appliqued snake. In terms of material, Anne used a significant amount of bead-work and ran a hemp-like cord around the edge. She used machine piecing and raw-edge applique throughout. The quilt is machine-quilted.

Rest by Day - Hunt by Night



30 "Wide x 18" Long



Detail of Raw Edge Applique



Original Embroidery Block



Ellen learned to sew as a child, mostly clothing and practical items. Inspired by her mother's quilts, she has been quilting herself for about 20 years. Since her mother had made so many wonderful bed quilts for the family, Ellen tried smaller pieces.

Ellen's background is in drawing and graphic design. Studying landscape architecture encouraged her to experiment with quilt designs. From that, it was a logical step into art quilts. Ellen's quilts usually reflect her interest in plants or landscape.

This quilt is Ellen's second Sister Artists project. "When I made the quilt with my Malian sister's embroidery, I loved the challenge of collaborating with another artist to create a blending of our work," she said. "I was eager to do it again with the Kenya project."

Christine's block shows a regal leopard lounging on the branch of a tree. Ellen did her research and found that this is a typical daytime pose for a leopard, which relies on cunning and the cover of darkness to catch its prey. "It seemed to me that encountering a leopard would feel very different at night than in the daylight," says Ellen. "That inspired me to show the two faces of a leopard in this quilt."

Ellen used raw-edge applique on both halves of this quilt and drew on thread painting to enhance the design. She also enjoyed expanding the landscape that is depicted so beautifully in Christine's embroidery. The quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted.

Ellen is a member of *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA).

Christine is a professional embroidery artist born in Uganda and living in Kenya. She started by embroidering flowers and then moved into more advanced shapes such as figures and animals. She has become well-known as a skilled fiber artist and sells her work in Kenya and abroad. Christine has served as the trainer for all three embroidery projects supported by The Advocacy Project in Kenya, starting with the *Women's World* quilt made for the ICPD conference in 2019.



Playing in the Sunshine

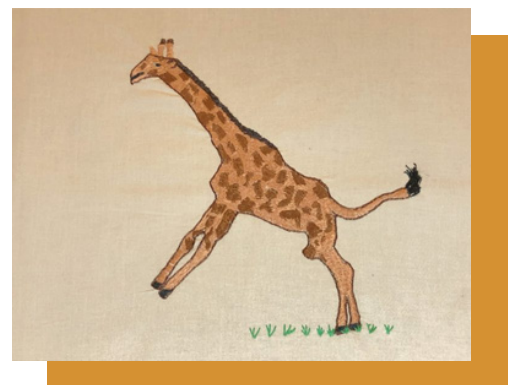


23.5" Wide x 24.5" Long



Details of Fabrics and Piecing

Original Embroidery Block



Cathy has been quilting for the last 40 years. She has run her own custom machine-design quilting business and taught in most of the 50 states in the US and abroad. Cathy has also been published in numerous magazines and appeared in several quilting programs aired on the internet and television.



Cathy loves meeting new people and sharing her enthusiasm for quilting. Quilting has been a wonderful and joyous experience for her and she was happy to collaborate with her friend Kathy Springer in making *Playing in the Sunshine* from Penninah's embroidered block. Cathy wants to thank The Advocacy Project for taking on this project and all the work and effort that has been put into it.

Kathy fell in love with quilting at a craft show in Maryland and made her first quilt shortly afterwards with the help of a neighbor. Kathy has made many quilting friends in the years since and particularly enjoyed her collaboration with Cathy Franks who loves quilting as much as Kathy loves piecing! They and other friends have made several quilts for The Advocacy Project including the tragic but beautiful *Rehema Widows Quilt* on genital cutting in Kenya. Kathy also worked on the *Moroccan Amazigh Quilt* and the *Women's Microcredit Quilt* from Bangladesh.



When contacted about the *Sister Artists 2* project, Kathy selected the playful giraffe by Penninah. She wanted to highlight the giraffe, and felt a wall hanging that could go anywhere in a house, a child's room, a nursery, etc. would be perfect. She used Electric Quilt to design this quilt as she knew the sun block would have to be paper-pieced, as well as the trees. Kathy already had some fabric which carried designs of a giraffe, elephant, etc. and had colors that were vivid and bright like Penninah's giraffe. The quilt is machine-pieced with precise paper piecing on the trees and the sun. Machine quilting has been used throughout.

Kathy recently retired and became a grandmother. She feels lucky that she can watch her grandchildren and spend a lot of time creating quilts, as this is truly her passion.

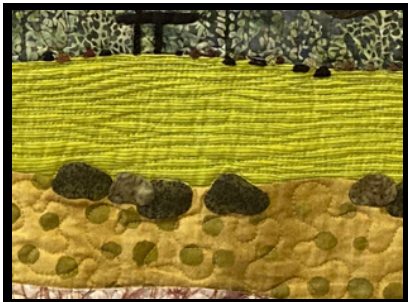


Penninah lives in Kangemi, Nairobi. She chose to embroider a giraffe, one of the most popular animals in Kenya. Penninah is so thankful to this project for giving her the opportunity to learn embroidery.

Sentinel



40" Wide x 30.5" Long



Details of Mixed Fabrics and Patterns



Imisa is 26 and married with 3 children – two girls and a boy. She reached Form 4 at school and is currently unemployed. The family depends on her husband who is also struggling to make ends meet. This project has made her really appreciate AP and other collaborators because she has been able to get soap and food for her kids. “Please continue helping us with this project because it is of a big help to us!” she says.



Original Embroidery Block



Lynn is a retired pharmacist, originally from New Hampshire. She took her first traditional quilting class in Massachusetts in the early 1980's, before the birth of her second daughter. As a longtime seamstress, Lynn was intrigued at the many ways quilters were using fabrics and the endless possibilities. Hand applique and embroidery soon became her favorite techniques. She enjoys using different textiles and fibers in her work.

Speaking of her experience with the project she says, “It was an honor to participate in *Sister Artists 2*. I love that the Kenyan women are using embroidery as an art form and a means to improve their economic prospects.”

Lynn thinks of Imisa's leopard as guardian of his environment and incorporated him into an African landscape looking south toward Mount Kilimanjaro. She used several beautiful fabrics in making the quilt. Nine patch blocks surround the center, in coordinating colors.

Lynn also added other embellishments including silk ribbons and hand embroidery.

Graceful Gazelle



20" Wide x 20" Long



Details of Stitching



Florence is from the outskirts of Nairobi. She is a single mother of one boy. Since early March her job has been affected by COVID-19 which left her jobless. Florence is still looking for work.

Original
Embroidery Block



Linda's mother taught her to sew when she was young. When she was in her 30s, Linda had a moving and painful experience and wanted to describe it through a quilt. She had no idea how to construct a quilt and took a studio class where she learned the basics of patchwork and applique. Linda has been making quilts ever since with breaks along the way.

Linda has made quilts with traditional blocks and patterns, but is mostly an improvisational quilter. The

composition of the design is particularly important. Linda usually modifies, expands, takes detours and allows serendipity to happen as she works on a quilt or wall hanging.

Over the years, Linda has had several opportunities to collaborate with artists in other parts of the world. In *Sister Artists 2* she saw another chance to put the slogan "sisterhood is powerful" into practice. In this collaboration with Florence, her Kenyan Sister, Linda placed the gazelle in the savannah, its natural habitat. Florence had embroidered the gazelle and some grass. Linda added more grass and put in the wavy and couched lines. The quilt's backside and binding are made from fabric purchased by a friend in Nigeria (although Linda thinks it may have been produced in Indonesia—another example of our interconnected world!).

The colors of the original embroidery are reflected in the colors of the border where Linda has used a variety of stitches including couching. Some of the same stitches are used for the quilt itself, which is machine-pieced.

Wading Buffalo



18" Wide x 25.5" Long



*Details of Painting
and Patterns*





Susy is 23 years old. She comes from a humble background. In her family, there are 8 children, with Susy being the oldest. Her education level is form four. Susy's parents did not manage to pay for further studies because of the school fees of her younger siblings. Now, Susy has a child and works as a casual laborer due to COVID-19. The difficulty of finding work has changed Susy's life and she struggles to raise her child. She very much hopes to go further in her studies. Susy lives with her brother and his family.

Original Embroidery Block



Merry May has lived in Tuckahoe, NJ for most of her life. She has been making quilts since the early 1970s, and became a quilting instructor in 1988. She is also a lecturer, designer, author, quilt historian, curator, mentor, and fabric & button hoarder. Merry has designed and written instructions for over 40 patterns of *Merry Mayhem's Mystery Quilts*, which have been enjoyed by quilters worldwide since 1994. Her work is in public and private collections worldwide.

Merry has made several quilts for The Advocacy Project. In 2020 she completed two quilts from beautiful blocks stitched by refugees from Iraq, Syria and Palestine.

The setting for *Wading Buffalo* was machine-pieced with many different fabrics including from Africa. Most of the quilting is done by machine except for the water, which is hand-quilted using a variety of thread colors as well as metallic gold. The colors of the original embroidery are reflected in the colors of the border. Merry has used a variety of embroidery stitches including couching, some of which are used for quilting as well.

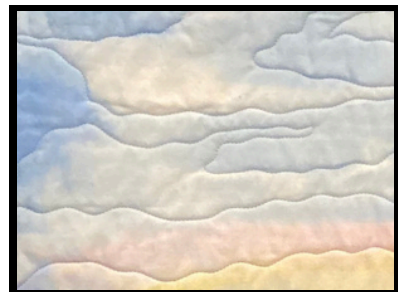
In Merry's "spare time" she manages a local cemetery, and owns a shop - *Two Tons of Buttons* (no, really!). Merry is past president of the *Greater Tuckahoe Area Merchants' Association*, and established the Association's *Handmade in America Professional Craft Show* in 2014. More of her work can be found at: www.MerryMayhem.com.



Kenyan Lion King



31" Wide x 33" Long



Details of Applique and Quilting



On a trip to the Serengeti, Hope and her group were taken to an area known for having lions that lived on the top of very high rocks. They were told that animators for the movie *The Lion King* had come to the area to find inspiration for the famous opening scene.

When Hope saw the beautiful hand-embroidered lion done by Modester, her Kenyan sister artist, she knew immediately how she wanted to design her quilt.

Hope used raw-edge machine applique to create the massive rock where the lion is standing. The sky is made of hand-dyed fabric. The machine quilting also includes some thread painting.

Hope is a long-time quilter. After blanketing her family, friends and new babies with quilts, she turned to the fun of making art quilts. This is Hope's second quilt for The Advocacy Project. She has been a long-time supporter of women's rights and spent most of her working life as a nurse practitioner for Planned Parenthood. A mother of five, Hope has five grandchildren.



Modester is 25 years old from the Luhya people. She lives in Kangemi, Westland sub-County, Nairobi County and is humble, hard-working and caring. She likes networking, traveling and doing embroidery. She has one surviving parent, her mother Regina Saibai, five sisters and two brothers.

Modester finished form four in the year 2014, and attained a grade of C minus. She studied at the East Africa Institute of Certified Studies College for a diploma in Social Work and Community Development and graduated last December.

Modester was introduced to embroidery last year in September by Caren Mbayaki. Currently, Modester is volunteering at the *Afya Jijini Dreams Program* as a mentor. She is married to Emmanuel Ngowa, a trainer of acrobats, and she has traveled to four countries.

Modester thanks Christine for training the ladies in Kangemi, and The Advocacy Project for helping the ladies financially and providing moral support especially during this time of COVID-19.



Original Embroidery Block

Protecting her Pride



27" Wide x 17" Long



Details of Stitching and Villagers



Evelin is 24 years old and married with one child, a one-year old girl. Evelin is a housewife and was introduced to embroidery by her mother. She loves doing it and thanks The Advocacy Project for enabling her to participate.

Original Embroidery Block



Pati has been quilting for almost 30 years. Her background is fabric and graphic design. After teaching and blogging for many years, she found her passion in supporting others in their creative endeavors and by making her own meaningful art (which just happens to include textiles!)

Pati's quilt was inspired by her Kenyan Sister Artist, Evelin. Pati compares Evelin and her young child to the lioness and her offspring – both are trying to protect those they love. The children in Pati's piece were inspired by a photo she found while researching Kangemi.

Pati stitched her quilt entirely by hand, except for the finishing of the edges. Fabric was torn to give a soft, natural fray, layered and collaged, then stitched together with an assortment of threads to add texture and movement. This is a process Pati has been exploring over the past few years. "I find it to be similar to freely painting and sketching, as opposed to the rigidity of stitches made by machine," she writes.

This technique involves making choices in the moment, whether in layering the fabric or accentuating the stitches and Pati does very little planning in advance. It is a liberating process, somewhat like doodling. The quilt is meant to be enjoyed up close.

Pati's work can be seen at Patifried.com and SeeHowWeSew.com.

Wildcat



23" Wide x 23" Long

Details of Fabric
Pattern and Stitching





Lucia is 19 years old, and was brought up by both parents. She has three sisters and one brother. Lucia has gained a lot from joining the embroidery team. She started with little knowledge and thanks all who have supported the embroidery, because they have really helped her go far. If it were not for them Lucia would not be able to move forward in her career.

Original
Embroidery Block



While researching potential speakers for her quilt guild, Jane happened to find Allison Wilbur's *Quilt for Change* website and saw the announcement of the *Sister Artists 2* project. The Kenyan embroidery reminded Jane of story cloths that had been made by the mothers of immigrant Hmong children she had taught in the 1990's and 2000's. The beautiful embroidered cloths chronicled the lives of the Hmong clans – from villages in the highlands of Laos and Vietnam, to the refugee camps in Thailand and eventually to new homes in the United States. With her new-found collage quilting skills, Jane knew she wanted to be involved with *Sister Artists 2*.

Jane learned to sew as a youngster at the elbow of her grandmother, making clothes for her dolls. She spent her teenage years repurposing denim jeans into new garments. In college and beyond, Jane designed and constructed formal dresses and gowns for proms and weddings. Between raising a family and teaching science to middle school students in an urban school district, Jane could be found designing, sewing and altering bridal and special occasion gowns. This grew into a small side business.

After retiring from teaching and fancy gown making, Jane had time to learn quilting, which has become her passion! During the pandemic she has been able to learn quite a few new quilting techniques via YouTube videos and Zoom workshops. Her latest favorite technique is art and landscape collage quilting.

Reflecting on her quilt *Wildcat* Jane says: "It has been my honor and pleasure to participate in *Sister Artists 2*!" She placed the embroidered block in a realistic setting using raw-edge applique and raw-edge piecing. The quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted.

Jane is a member of *Bayberry Quilters of Cape Cod*.

Zebra



18.5" Wide x 13" Long

Details of Mixed
Fabrics and Patterns



Teresia Kithanga



Kangemi, Kenya

Teresia teaches in a complementary primary school in one of the Nairobi slums. She is married with two boys and two girls, three still in school. Teresia was introduced to embroidery by a friend and she likes it! It keeps her very busy.



Original Embroidery Block

Karen Pulaski



Hudson, Massachusetts

Karen came to quilting via her family bridal store. An accomplished seamstress, she would meet with quilters who worked at a nearby fabric outlet and urged her to share her secrets. This led to 25 years of quilt training, retreats, and quilt shows.

Along with creating art quilts, Karen enjoys bringing the pleasure of quilting and sewing to students at all levels and draws on her long sewing experience to inspire all who join her classes. Her quilts have featured in several newspapers, including the *Boston Globe* and *Arts Around Boston* magazine.

Karen has used African fabrics to set off the realistic embroidery in *Zebra*. The quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted.

Grazing Giraffe



26.5" Wide x 24" Long

Details of Patterns and Stitching





Caroline is married with four children, two girls and two boys. She used to work in a school as a casual laborer but COVID-19 caused the school to be closed and she does not know if she will be called back after it reopens. Joining *Sister Artists 2* was the best decision she made because it was therapeutic. "Thank you so much for your support and God bless you all!" she says.



Original Embroidery
Block



For Tricia, quilting is part of a larger creative process that includes photography. It all comes together in Tricia's quilts and she looked on *Sister Artists 2* as an opportunity to experiment with new approaches. Tricia knows Africa from visiting Zambia and was impressed when a friend started an education fund for young Africans.

Tricia has made quilts for fund-raising and was drawn to *Sister Artists 2* because she wanted to help. She picked the giraffe block because she finds giraffes majestic and thought the giraffe embroidery was beautifully crafted. The piece work in this quilt reflects and enhances the colors of the original block. Tricia used some African and African-inspired fabrics and has machine pieced and machine quilted her quilt.

Tricia is a member of *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA); the *Quilters Connection Guild*, based in Watertown; and the *Rising Star Quilt Guild* in Arlington. She sells her work through galleries and takes on commissions.

Zebras



26" Wide x 19" Long



Details of Fabric Patterns

Anne Wairimu Kihiu



Kangemi, Kenya

Anne, 27, is the only daughter among 3 children in her family, being the second born. She has a younger brother who looks up to her as his mentor and role model. She has gone through the 8-4-4 system and acquired a degree in Business and Information Technology from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Anne graduated in 2017 but did not manage to secure a job. Along the way she has also managed to get other certificates from other educational institutions and is currently studying for a diploma in Catering and Accommodation.

Anne is multi-talented and artistic - as well as a hard worker and perfectionist! This has enabled her to open a small bakery and extend her love of art to cake decorating. This has put her in a better place especially during this hard time of COVID-19.

Rhonda O'Keefe



Hudson, New Hampshire

Original Embroidery Block



Zebras is Rhonda's second quilt for The Advocacy Project – she also participated in *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) in 2020. Rhonda was especially happy to receive the embroidered zebras because she had just finished another art quilt featuring zebras.

Zebras was a particular challenge because Rhonda suffered a stroke just after receiving the beautiful embroidered square. She planned the quilt while spending a week in the hospital and another week in rehab, learning to use her left leg, arm and hand again. She viewed working on her quilt after she returned home as a part of her therapy.

Rhonda continues to recover coordination and strength, and has resumed work part-time as Director of Environmental Health and Safety for the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA. She lives with her husband and dog, and in her spare time enjoys making art quilts and bed quilts, gardening, hiking, and ringing hand bells.

Zebras is set in a brilliant array of oranges and reds to represent the African sun. Rhonda has added sunshine quilting motifs inside one of the yellow rays. Her quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted.

Simba Jasiri - Brave Lion



24" Wide x 20" Long



Detail of Bird Motif



Susan resides in Gachie-Kiambu. She is married with 3 boys. Currently she is without work and actively looking for a job.

Original Embroidery Block



Stephanie is a public health management consultant. She has been quilting for four years and is a member of the *DC Modern Quilt Guild*. Stephanie has always dabbled with crafts and when her best friend of 45-plus years pushed her into an Internet rabbit hole Stephanie found inspiration from phenomenal quilters – Chawne Kimber, Jacquie Gering, Bisa Butler, Gee's Bend and so many others. She hasn't looked back since and is inspired by the way quilts can make powerful political and social statements. After a dear friend invited her to

an exhibition of the *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) quilts in Washington, Stephanie was inspired to support the phenomenal work of The Advocacy Project and sign up for *Sister Artists 2*.

In making *Simba Jasiri – Brave Lion*, Stephanie wanted to provide a simple backdrop to highlight the extraordinary embroidery by Susan in Kenya, while bringing out the lion's majestic strength and bravery, and the beauty of the savanna. She used wool batting and dense, wavy quilting to make the lion pop out in a dreamy, undulating landscape. This dramatic presentation uses black-on-black fabrics which make the silver lamé moon shine even brighter. The multitude of yellow fabrics surrounding the lion embroidery also provide an artistic contrast. The quilt is machine-pieced and machine-quilted.

Feathers and Flowers



20.5" Wide x 17" Long



Detail of Flowers

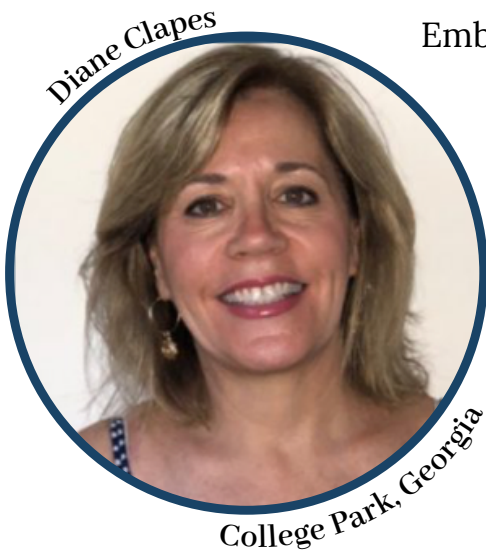


Diana, 26 is a mother of two daughters, aged 5 and 2 and the first born in a family of 4 siblings. She is a community health volunteer and advocates against gender-based violence as part of her work to sensitize the community and reduce the level of GBV.

Diana is happy and grateful to have worked on *Sister Artists 2*. She says: "It has been a wonderful experience working with everyone and learning new skills." The project has really empowered Diana over these few months. She thanks AP and the many others involved in *Sister Artists 2* and looks forward to working again with them.



Original
Embroidery Block



Diane has always loved working with fabric. She "dabbled" at quilting while raising a family, but turned to quilting full-time when her last child went to college. Diane likes art quilting "because I don't have to follow a pattern and can be more individualistic." She still takes classes and has had several quilts hung in shows.

Diane was honored to work with Diana's peacock block. She found the workmanship spectacular and loved Diana's colors, which gave her inspiration. Diane used Diana's colors and worked with flowers and leaves that she had drawn to create a whimsical framing for the beautiful bird. The flowers surrounding the embroidered peacock use an applique technique in which each flower is outlined with fine, contrasting fabric and then machine-quilted. The applique is raw edge. The quilt is machine-quilted.

Diane is a member of the *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA).

In the Shadows of Menengai Crater



21" Wide x 20" Long

Original
Embroidery Block



Detail of Mountain and
Tree Motif



Sabina, 18, is at college studying Hospitality. She lives with her family – her two parents and 3 siblings. She has an elder brother, a younger sister and a younger brother. Sabina likes cooking and watching movies. She was introduced to embroidery in 2019 and so far she loves it. “Doing it is very enjoyable” she says, and she thanks AP for the opportunity to participate.



Donna became interested in working with textiles when she started sewing garments as a teenager. When she was 18, Donna made her first bed quilt using scraps of fabric from her mother’s stash of garment fabrics. Despite making lots of mistakes on that first quilt, she continued to make bed quilts and has sewn garments for about 30 years.

When Donna retired from teaching in elementary schools about 10 years ago, she started taking classes to learn more quilting techniques, especially art quilting. She was inspired by photographs from travels to make landscape quilts. Donna also likes to experiment with different techniques such as painting and dyeing fabrics and adding mixed media elements.

Donna likes to participate in challenge quilts to get her creative ideas flowing, and enjoys making quilts for charities such as *Quilts of Valor*, *Habitat for Humanity*, and *Quilts for Kids*.

In making *In the Shadows of the Menengai Crater* Donna used photographs of Kenya and the crater as inspiration. She created a landscape background for Sabina's Kenyan elephant from fused strips of fabric and then used Angelina fibers on the crater. The trees are appliqued to the background using free-motion quilting. Donna used raw-edge piecing and applique for this design, then used a combination of straight-line quilting and free-motion quilting to finish it. Hand painted fabrics, as well as shimmering fabric and silver thread on the snow-capped peak add realism.

Donna heard about The Advocacy Project through Bobbi Fitzsimmons at a meeting of her quilt guide in Wilmington, NC. Donna enjoys doing challenge quilts and was happy to support this important work.

Donna is a member of *Quilters By the Sea Guild* in Wilmington, NC.

The Wildebeest Migration



*Details of Stitching Applique
and Animal Motifs*

34.5" Wide x 20" Long





Patricia was born and raised in Kibera, Nairobi County but spent her schooling years in Nyandarua County in central Kenya. She has a good knowledge of Kibera's history before the rural-urban migration that transformed the area into an informal settlement. Patricia was fortunate to get a job in Nairobi after completing her diploma in Hotel Management but had to return to her rural home following the 2007 and 2017 post-election violence. She later returned to Kibera and has since been doing casual jobs to support her family back home. Patricia also plaits hair and hopes to open her own salon. During the project, she would look forward to meeting the other artists each week at training and felt that she was learning something new that will supplement her weekly wages.



Original
Embroidery Block

Sandra has been an avid quilter for almost 25 years. Although she first learned her craft through making garments, she has discovered that stitching traditional and art quilts is a very creative and challenging process. As a retired biologist and teacher, she frequently features animal and plant motifs in her work.

Sandra was so impressed with the level of craftsmanship in her embroidered wildebeest from Kenya that she was initially afraid that her contribution would detract from its beauty! After researching the ecology of the wildebeest, she decided to focus on the annual migration of the animals. The regal embroidered wildebeest would lead the herd!

Dyeing fabrics is Sandra's newest passion and she used her own hand-dyed fabrics in making the sky for *The Wildebeest Migration*. The scene is constructed with batiks and commercially printed fabrics. By using a wool batting, Sandra was able to create the illusion of rolling hills with only a few stitched lines. She then used fusible applique to show a herd of wildebeest following the leader. There is intricate diamond piecing in the sky and significant machine quilting, as well as machine embroidery, throughout the piece.

Sandra thought a lot about Patricia, her very talented Sister Artist in Kenya, while the quilt took shape. She recognizes that Patricia is a true artist in every sense of the word.

Sandra is a member of *Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)*; *Rhode Island Threads*; and president of the *Quilters by The Sea* guild in Rhode Island.



Ubuntu Crane



22" Wide x 34.5" Long

*Details of the Applique
and Texture*





Veena travelled from Birongo (Kisii County) five years ago after completing secondary education. She later pursued a course in computer studies but due to lack of funds had to drop out. Determined to make ends meet, she does housekeeping jobs and is saving up to open a small grocery shop. Veena is married with two children and appreciated spending time with the ladies each week during the project. It was her first experience of embroidery and she found it enjoyable as well as a source of income.

Dawn is an art quilter, graphic designer, pattern designer and motivational instructor from Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada. Her mother showed Dawn how to see the world with an artist's eye when she was very young, and she continues to pursue her passion – playing creatively with fabric and paint – today. Art and quilting is therapeutic, relaxing, and brings Dawn a tremendous amount of joy.

This is Dawn's second Sister Artists quilt but the first to be made during the COVID-19 pandemic. She tells us that living through the unrest and confusion has given her another reason to participate this second time around.

Dawn is reminded that people of Africa or African origin use the word Ubuntu to describe the values that make people authentic human beings. Linking herself to this collective of creative women for a greater cause is, to Dawn, Ubuntu.

Dawn's art draws on family, travel, global awareness, as well as social issues. It also incorporates bold colors, graphic designs & interesting surface designs that highlight a variety of traditional and modern art forms. Dawn gave a lot of thought to the colors and symbols of *Ubuntu Crane*. She used Adinkra symbols in her art-deco design; turquoise for wisdom, good fortune, and hope; and yellow for the sun, depicting happiness and positivity. Dawn believes that "humanity should behave well towards others and act in ways that will benefit us all."

Dawn is a member and contributing exhibitor of the *Fibre Art Network of Canada* (FAN); *Textile Fibre Artists of Manitoba* (TFAM); and the *Studio Art Quilters Association* (SAQA) of Western Canada. She is also Communications Director for the *Canadian Quilters Association*.



Original
Embroidery Block

Beldine's Lion



34" Wide x 32" Long



*Details of Applique
with Lion Motif*



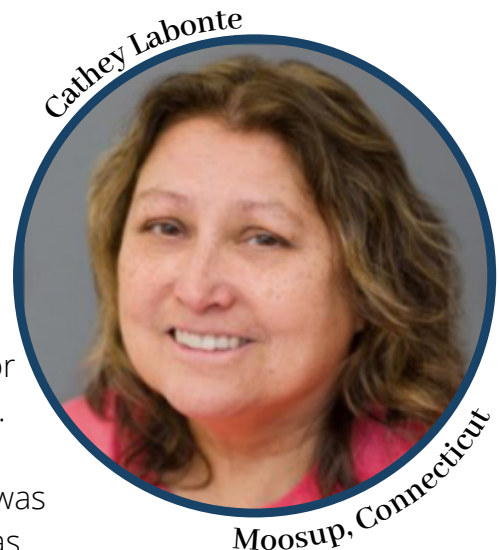
Beldine grew up in Homa Bay County and was fortunate to proceed to college soon after high school. After finishing her diploma in Accounts, she traveled to Nairobi in 2016 in search of a job but has only managed to get short contracts in the industrial area.

Sister Artists 2 has allowed Beldine to discover a hidden talent. Before joining the Kibera team, she could neither stitch nor embroider. Working on the embroidery has also introduced Beldine to new friends. She now aspires to open her own business to sell clothes and fashion accessories. She is married and expecting her second child.

As a full-time civil engineer, Cathey makes her quilts in her spare time. She learned quilting from her grandmother and mother, and moved into art quilting after her grandchildren were born. "Art quilting allows for more imagination, decoration and techniques," she says. Cathey particularly likes working with colors.

Cathey created a block for *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) and was one of the first to select a block for *Sister Artists 2*. She has used an interesting technique for her new quilt. She arranged loose pieces of fabric on a backing fabric, and then laid a neutral-colored netting over the pieces which she then quilted in place. A gauze-like fabric finishes the snow on top of the mountain. The embroidered lion blends seamlessly into the landscape.

Cathey is a member of the *Narragansett Bay Quilt Association*; the *Quiet Corner Art Quilt Guild*; and *Studio Art Quilters Associates* (SAQA).



Original
Embroidery Block



Colors of Kenya



23" Wide x 28.5" Long



Detail of Floral Motifs



Caroline was born in Ruai, Nairobi County. She married and settled in Kibera 17 years ago. Despite her life challenges as a young mother of four and a casual laborer, Caroline has taught herself tailoring and currently makes African attire from her house in Kibera. She has enjoyed learning embroidery and hopes to perfect that too.

Original
Embroidery Block



Linda brings a combination of passions to her quilting – textiles, found and recycled materials, and her identity as a woman, parent, immigrant and American. Every project is an opportunity to impart a message and create original work. So naturally, when she heard about *Sister Artists 2*, she got involved!

The lovely lilac-breasted roller bird embroidered by Caroline in Kenya inspired Linda herself to be colorful and joyful. She also discovered from online research that the roller is considered one of the most beautiful birds in the world, and is Kenya's (unofficial) national bird.

Aided by their long tail streamers, lilac-breasted rollers are known for their acrobatic aerial displays during courtship, which is how they got their name. Many

Kenyans also feel that the bird's feather colors – green, white, tan, black, yellow, turquoise, royal blue, reddish-brown, and lilac – symbolize the different tribes of Kenya.

To reflect this rich diversity and the importance of conservation, Linda used only found fabric and saved scraps, which she fashioned into rainbow colors. She appliqued a red heart onto the center panel as a message of hope and love from artists in the USA to their sisters in Kenya. The piecing is by machine but the quilting is done by hand.



Peace



42" Wide x 38" Long

Details of Patterns, Texture and Applique





Cecilia comes from Nyandarua County in Central Kenya and currently lives in Nairobi where she came in search of a job 24 years ago. A single mother of two young adults, Cecilia says that life's challenges have made her determined to educate her children and put herself through school (where she did computer studies). She supplemented her income by doing short contracts before working at the Tandaza Trust, which is a co-sponsor of the *Sister Artists 2* project.

Cecilia works in the toughest of places - the slums and the streets of Nairobi - because she cares for women struggling with drug addiction, prostitution and gender violence. She enjoys being with the lively ladies in Kibera and says that this project has sharpened her embroidery skills since she joined in October 2019.



Original
Embroidery Block

Colleen learned the basics of quilting from her mother, who was an expert at crazy quilting. Colleen works in industrial textiles, where she tests upholstery for resistance to fire. She loves the idea of helping the Kenyan embroiderers learn a skill that will earn them money. For this quilt, Colleen took the idea of 'art quilt' quite seriously, as her asymmetrical design shows.

The quilt is made with raw-edge piecing and additional applique. In an unusual touch, Colleen also added a piece of embroidered tea towel. Colleen used African fabrics (which are identified by the wording on the edges). The quilting is done by machine in a free-motion design and the edges are purposely left unfinished.

Colleen is a member of two guilds: *A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters* in Wisconsin; and *Women Who Run with Scissors*. She also has served as the Illinois and Wisconsin regional representative of *Studio Art Quilt Associates* (SAQA).



Oryx



22" Wide x 18" Long



Details of Raw-Edge
Applique and Pattern



Winnie lives in the Kianda area of Kibera where she settled 6 years ago after leaving her rural home in Homa Bay County in Nyanza.

Winne's family sent her to Nairobi after completing secondary school to find a job. Instead, she got the opportunity to start a small shop, using her savings from casual work. Unfortunately, the business closed after Winnie ran out of capital when her customers refused to pay their bills. She has done casual labor to support her family ever since.

While making her design for *Oryx*, Winnie realized that working with embroidery brings her joy and supplements her weekly income. Winnie plans to save enough capital to reopen her retail shop and build it into a wholesale business. She is married with a son and is expecting another child soon.



Original
Embroidery Block



Karen is a photographer/fiber artist from Rhode Island who supports the mission of Sister Artists, having been a "Sister from the North" for the *Sister Artists 1* (Mali) project.

Karen writes: "Hand arts/embroidery is a universal art form that women have in common all over the world, and I am proud to have received Winnie's embroidery piece to use in creating an art quilt. Winnie's oryx is the main attraction. I have stuffed it to give it definition on the quilt. I layered some Kantha (Indian saris layered and hand-stitched together) to represent the Kenyan landscape. I then used hand and machine stitching to bind the Kantha to my yellow hand-dyed fabric. This completed the art quilt."

In making *Oryx* Karen used a rough, raw-edge applique. Most of the quilting is a long hand-stitch embellishment. The fabric colors enhance the colors of the embroidered motif. There is also some machine-quilting.

Wading Crane



25" Wide x 27.5" Long



Details of Applique



Catherine studied Business Management in Nairobi after completing her secondary school education in Kisii County, Western Kenya. Despite the unemployment challenges she has been able to support her family through short contract housekeeping jobs and has been able to save part of her weekly earnings as a result of the *Sister Artists 2* project. Since joining in February 2020, she has learned how to weave and embroider. Catherine hopes to open her own business, which would give her more time to care for her family. Catherine is married with two daughters and expecting a third child.



Original
Embroidery Block

Sue is a semi-retired university teacher. While her teaching career has kept her engaged academically and socially, Sue always makes time for the arts, gardening, traveling, and birds. When she saw Catherine's embroidered crane from Kenya, it spoke to her. Indeed, Sue saw the threads and design of this stately bird as an opportunity to escape the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether Sue is creating an art quilt or a traditional quilt, the process is as important as the finished product. This particular crane needed to have a vertical setting. Half-way through sewing the blocks together, Sue realized the crane must have been migrating when Catherine saw it in Kenya, and this accounts for the arrows Sue has added to show direction. She has captured the colors of the embroidered bird in her traditional piecing and uses free-motion quilting throughout to enhance the embroidered motif.

While making her quilt, Sue placed her sewing machine and tables so that she could watch the birds outside her window. This allowed Sue to watch finches and warblers bathing in the birdbath while she was planning and sewing the quilt for Catherine's lovely embroidered crane. Reflecting on the experience, Sue says: "It is a joy to quilt something so lovely as Catherine's bird!"

Embroidered Flamingo



26.5" Wide x 29.5" Long



Details of Stitching



Agnes was born in Kisii County in Western Kenya. She came to Nairobi 10 years ago in the hope of starting at college and settled in Kibera. Beginning life afresh had its ups and downs but Agnes found a new passion in hairdressing and beauty and currently plaits hair to make ends meet financially.

Agnes hopes to run her own successful hair and beauty salon in future. She has also discovered that she loves embroidery, because it keeps her well occupied during the day and supplements her household budget. She is married with 2 children.



Original
Embroidery Block

Susan has been a quilter for over 30 years and taught quilting in every conceivable venue, to every age group (kindergarteners to seniors), and in countries as varied as the US and Russia (in 1994 and 1997). Susan's quilts have been exhibited in major quilt shows in the US, France and Russia. She has won a number of ribbons including one for best embellishments at the New Jersey *Quiltfest*.

Susan has always used her passion for quilting not just to fulfill her own creative needs but as a voice for positive change. She has been involved with many quilting projects that she hoped would bring joy to others. This led her to The Advocacy Project several years ago. After being introduced to AP by Nancy Evans, another skilled quilter, Susan assembled blocks from freed domestic slaves in Nepal into the *Sixth Love Blanket*.

Embroidered Flamingo is notable for its precise and intricate machine piecing. Susan uses the colors of the embroidered flamingo to unify the quilt. She did the border quilting by hand and the rest of the quilt by machine.





