



Mid Week Moments #50

Wednesday 10 March 2010

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This week, your Midweek Moments turns 50. That's 50 weekly issues, not years. While there are very often people who are less than delighted to turn 50, Midweek Moments is very pleased and proud to have hit this milestone, as it means we have been connecting people with a common passion for quilting and patchwork, regardless of where they live. Keep reading, keep telling us your stories and above all, keep quilting. And perhaps you might like to pour yourself a glass of bubbly and put on a funny hat while you're reading this issue.

Tell your friends, tell your neighbours, tell your mum!!!

To celebrate our Mid Week Moments 50th edition we have...



50% off

50

Fabrics

Click on the picture above to view the 50 fabrics. The fabrics won't last long at this price therefore each order will be date and time stamped and prioritise accordingly, so be quick. This offer is not available with any other offer or discount.

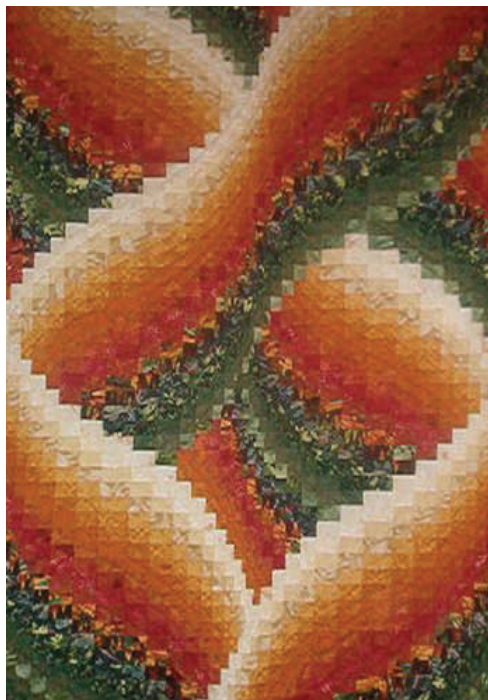
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Bargello with Chris Timmins

Would you like to try a new technique? Then register for the new Bargello class with Chris Timmins starting next week. Below are two types of Bargello quilts and we also have one on display in the shop, drop on in to see the quilts visual effect in person. For more information on this class click [here](#).



Bargello Quilt



Twisted Bargello Quilt

In next weeks Mid Week Moments our Tutor Profile will feature Chris Timmins, don't miss it!

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Stitches Through Time - Part 8

Last week we looked at the first of two significant twentieth century quilts – the Changi Prison Quilt, which was made by female POWs in Singapore’s Changi Prison during the Japanese occupation in 1942. This week, in the final instalment of ‘Stitches Through Time’, we look at the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which holds the distinction of officially being the largest quilt in the world.

Whether it can be considered a single quilt is actually a matter of opinion. In 2010, more than 70 different countries have their own versions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, but individually even most of those have become so large they aren’t able to be publicly displayed anymore. However, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is still generally regarded as being one quilt, at least conceptually if not literally.

It began its life in 1987, designed as a memorial to people who had died from AIDS-related causes. Due to the stigma of the disease back then, many funeral homes and cemeteries flatly refused to deal with AIDS victims, leaving them with no official memorial or gravesite. Families and friends were able to provide a memorial to their loved ones with highly individual and personalised patchwork panels, each measuring three feet by six feet, the size of an average grave. Only a tiny fraction of AIDS victims are represented by panels on the quilt, the American version of which now numbers over 90,000 and weighs 54 tonnes. The entire American quilt was last publicly displayed in Washington D.C. in 1996.

Australia’s quilt was officially unveiled on World AIDS Day in 1988 by publishing guru Ita Buttrose who launched the first 35 panels in Sydney. Australia’s quilt is now the largest outside of the United States and is a registered charity, with chapters in all states and territories.

Our study of the many quilting and patchwork histories over the centuries has proven, if nothing else, that quilting is a living tradition, constantly changing with the times, as well as with advances in technology and cross-cultural influences. It has served different races as clothing, protective armour, bed coverings, decorative wall hangings, status symbols, fundraising and campaigning items and memorial symbols. No doubt the traditions will continue to evolve for as long as people continue to invest their care, labour and time into their creation.

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.



The last public display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt: Washington, 1 December 1996.