

MEET OUR TEACHERS

Linda Carlson

Linda has been involved with quilting since 1975. Her work has evolved into four books: [Roots, Feathers & Blooms: 4-Block Quilts. Their History & Patterns; 4 Blocks Continued...](#); [Quilting to Soothe the Soul: Create Memories for Today, Tomorrow & Forever](#) and [The Best of 4 Blocks... & More](#). Besides being an author, she is also a teacher, lecturer, judge, quilt researcher, quiltmaker and designer. Her students enjoy her good sense of humor, guiding and flexible teaching approach, patience and ability to allow and encourage creativity.

Kathy Kansier

Kathy is a noted teacher, show judge and AQS Certified Appraiser. She began making quilts in 1974 and now specializes in crazy quilts, appliqué and edge treatments. Kathy is an author and pattern designer and has written many articles for the TAS newsletter and other quilt-related magazines. She and her husband now live between Springfield and Branson, MO where they are building a retreat center for quilters. Her students often comment that they have "never learned so much in a class."

Nancy Kerns

Nancy is a problem solver by nature, and has discovered many ways to do things in appliqué to simplify the techniques or to achieve specific results. She is very eager to share these tips and tricks with her students. Her classroom time is structured, organized and usually on schedule. She has many things to share and wants to be sure to get them all covered. She is prepared with supplies the students will need, samples to demonstrate the techniques and other needs (like chocolate!!) She has been an NQA Certified Quilt Teacher since 1986, and has taught several years at Elly Sienkiewicz's Appliqué Academy in Williamsburg, VA. She is currently working on her third 25 block Baltimore Album style quilt.

Gwen Marston

Gwen is a professional quiltmaker, teacher and author. Since 1981 she has had 19 solo exhibits and participated in many group shows. She maintains a busy teaching and lecture schedule both nationally and internationally. For the past 21 years she has conducted quilt retreats on Beaver Island, Michigan, her year round home. She was a regular columnist for *Ladies Circle Patchwork Quilts* for 12 consecutive years and has written 21 books.

Nancy Pearson

Nancy worked as a graphic artist for seven years after attending the School of The Art Institute of Chicago and The American Academy of Art. She discovered the world of quilting in 1985. After making several floral appliqué quilts she began designing her own patterns and selling them to the quilt world. She also authored a book, [Floral Appliqué](#) and her patterns are distributed by Rainy Day Patterns in Eugene, OR. Nancy has taught at numerous guilds and quilt conferences around the country and in South Africa and New Zealand. She has created changes in the world of appliqué with her original appliqué techniques.

Linda M. Poole

Linda has always felt privileged to have been born into a talented and loving, generous European family who always

put their family first when it came to teaching freedom of artistic expression. As a first generation, she has inherited the good fortune of generations of artists, silversmiths, sculptors, poets, weavers, stained-glass artisans and writers, leading to a never ending curiosity of different cultures. This has fueled her passion for travel, teaching and sharing her experiences with people around the world. She has taught in the USA, Germany, twice in Turkey, twice in Italy and in The United Kingdom. She believes language is never a barrier in the translation of quilts!

Scarlett Rose

After learning to quilt in 1976 and beginning teaching in 1986, Scarlett has taught for quilt guilds, shops and conferences throughout the United States and in Japan. In 1998, Scarlett taught at the American Quilters' Society show in Paducah, Kentucky. In 2000, she taught at the Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia and at the Quilter's Heritage Celebration in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There are two books that Scarlett has authored, [Celtic Style Floral Appliqué](#) and [Baskets: Celtic Style](#), both published by the American Quilter's Society of Paducah, KY. She has two quilt designs published in [Great American Quilts 1993](#) by Oxmoor House.

Mary Sorensen

Mary began quilting in the 1970's and found quilting to be a logical extension of her career as a textile professional working in the garment industry. Specializing in traditional fine hand appliqué done from original patterns, Mary's distinctive design style is characterized by elegant, formal lines, complex layering of small pieces, and an emphasis on using a myriad of fabrics to create visual texture and excitement. Her flawless appliqué technique and humorous, hands-on approach to teaching have motivated students to return to handwork with enthusiasm.

Gabrielle Swain

Best known for her use of color and her craftsmanship, Gabrielle Swain is a former theatre rat who began quilting in 1983. Ranging from realistic to abstract, she continues to explore man and his relationship to nature through her work. The author of two books on appliqué, Gabrielle has been featured in many publications both national and international. Her work has also been shown in many venues, such as Fiber Structure National, Materials: Hard and Soft, The Artist as Quiltmaker, and FiberNational. Gabrielle is one of the founding members of North Texas Quilt Artists. She is also a member of the Studio Art Quilt Association, the American Quilters' Society and the International Quilt Association. She maintains a working studio in her home which she shares with her husband, Ron and Busby the studio cat.

Jane Townswick

Jane began a career in publishing at Chitra Publications' *Quilting Today*, *Traditional Quilts*, and *Miniature Quilts* magazines in 1991, later moving on to become a quilt book editor at Rodale Press for more than seven years. A former quilt shop owner, she has been an instructor at Elly Sienkiewicz's esteemed Appliqué Academy 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, and enjoys teaching and lecturing throughout the country. She is the author of many popular books putting forth her unique techniques and designs.