

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER OF CAMBRIA COUNTY

Cosmic COLLABORATIONS

Reveling In Our Weirdness

MARCH 8—APRIL 25, 2025

*Featuring costumes, beadwork and fabric art by
Lisa Ashton, Sally C. Fink, and Karen Schnaubelt*

OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

ARTIST TALK AND Q & A—2:00 PM

A **video tour** of the artwork will be available on the Community Arts Center's **YouTube & Facebook** pages after the start of the exhibit.

GALLERY IS OPEN DURING OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Monday—Friday: 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

This exhibit was brought to you by...

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER OF CAMBRIA COUNTY

1217 Menoher Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15905
814.255.6515

info@caccc.org
www.caccc.org

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COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER OF CAMBRIA COUNTY

Cosmic COLLABORATIONS

Reveling In Our Weirdness

**MARCH 8 –
APRIL 25, 2025**

*An exhibit of
costuming,
beadwork and
fabric art
by Lisa Ashton,
Sally C. Fink, and
Karen Schnaubelt*



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lisa Ashton, Sally C. Fink and Karen Schnaubelt have been friends for decades and have competed with and against one another. The idea for *Cosmic Collaborations* was to show how the three costumers interpreted the same idea independently over their many years of making and competing costumes. A few of the groups were collaborations (Dawn & Dusk, Primalities) but the remainder show how the fabric artists manifested their unique take on a particular theme.

The proper term for this display is 'costuming,' as the ideas and designs are original, as opposed to today's more well-known 'cosplay,' which is recreations and mash-ups of media, anime and gaming characters.



LISA ASHTON

Lisa Ashton is a Fantasy/Science Fiction costumer since 1989. Starting with beading, macramé and hand embroidery on denim jackets as a teenager, then sewing and making garments, she began quilting while expecting her first child, and maintains an active interest in American quilts, their history, and salvaging and repairing them. She began entering Science Fiction convention Masquerades, making costumes from favorite book covers, and it cascaded from there!

Lisa designs and builds costumes to make people laugh, cry, and gasp in wonder, and has built and presented costumes in many genres: monsters, aliens, horror, princesses, goddesses, humor and tragedy. In the course of her costuming journey, she started building historical costumes, starting with Tudor dress from the 16th century, and then Victorian dress, where her interest was sparked by recreating her great-grandmother's dress from an 1895 family photo. This ignited an interest in authentic Victorian clothing and led her to found Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show, a Special Interest Group of the ICG (International Costumers' Guild), which collects and preserves Victorian-era garments and domestic artifacts for study (such as sewing and domestic items), and exhibits and gives talks at conventions and virtually. Her most recent efforts involved taking authentic 19th century damaged Kashmir shawls and making them into Victorian dresses and coats. Along the way she taught herself to restore antique parasols, which became another cherished hobby.

A Physician Assistant for over 35 years in Surgery and Emergency Medicine, she retired in 2020. She has two children, Tommy and Celia. She credits her career for a solid basis in problem-solving, which is a mainstay of her costuming methods.

She loves to teach quilting, beadwork, corset-making, and other costume-related skills, and to talk about how creative ideas originate and evolve. Over a great cup of coffee, of course!



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Passion For Purple

48	Victorian Secret: The Language of Flowers <i>Historical Masquerade Winner, 2015, Costume-Con 33</i> <i>Park of a "Victorian Secret" group featuring ladies in themed Victorian underwear, spoof of today's Victoria's Secret runway shows</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
49	Something Purple This Way Comes <i>Fantasy and SF Masquerade Winner, 2011, Balticon</i> <i>Did the beadwork and made a costume to show it off</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
50	Dame Duchess <i>Future Fashion Show Winner, 2022, Costume-Con 40</i> <i>A redesign of a 1976 costume, updated for a mature woman</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS

Primalities

Five matriarchs from a post-apocalyptic society trying to preserve the best of the Old Ways. Best in Show Fantasy and SF Masquerade, 2022, Costume-Con 40

Karen created her Shaman's beaded pieces; Lisa beaded everything for the remaining four costumes. Sally made the headpieces for the Shaman, Keeper of Healing, and Keeper of Knowledge. Not displayed here: Keeper of Technology by Leslie Johnston and Keeper of Fire by Nora Mai.

51	Keeper of Healing	Lisa Ashton	NFS
52	The Shaman	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
53	Keeper of Knowledge / Memory	Sally C. Fink	NFS



SALLY C. FINK

Sally C. Fink began drawing and making up stories to go with those drawings when she could first pick up a pencil. Many sketches, many stories and many years later, she wrote her first Lalloure novel in 1988. Two more books in the same series quickly followed. Nearly twenty years later she published those books, then wrote and published the fourth and fifth books and completed the series in 2018. And she continued writing. Two stand-alone novels in the early 2020s and more recently the first book in her Couture War series, *The Vanished Thread*.

Sally is also an internationally award-winning costumer whose writings reflect her love of historical and fantasy clothing. She began costuming in 1973 when she entered a "Futuristic Fashion Design" contest sponsored by the convention Equicon. Nearly 50 years later, she is a many-times-over Master costumer in the International Costumers Guild, and a Baroness, a Laurel and a Pelican in the Society for Creative Anachronism. In 2020 she was awarded the International Costumers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award for her costumes and contributions to the costuming community.

Known for her large, elaborate headpieces and love of purple and glitz both fannishly and in the SCA, she has had over a dozen one-woman costume and art-to-wear shows at local venues in western Pennsylvania, including three at Laurel Arts and seven at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County. From 2004 to 2011, one of her fantasy costumes, "The Iron Orchid," was on exhibition in the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle, WA.

Sally was born in Somerset, PA, in 1951. She went to college, hated it, and dropped out after one semester. She then went to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, loved it, and graduated at the top of her class in 1972. She worked as a department store fashion illustrator at Glosser Bros., manager of a local fabric store, and copywriter/layout artist for the Tribune-Democrat where she was eventually promoted to art director.

Now retired, she is either at the sewing machine or the computer. After many years of making adult costumes, she has turned her sewing skills to costuming ball jointed dolls. Costumes and clothing also figure prominently in her novels.

To learn more about Sally's books and costumes, visit her website at: www.sallycfink.com



KAREN SCHNAUBELT

Karen Schnaubelt started designing costumes at age 9 and got less than stellar grades in the sewing portion of Home Economics at age 11, largely because the patterns were utilitarian and the fabrics were not glitzy and therefore did not spark her interest. She first set foot into the world of competition costuming at science fiction conventions in 1973 at age 18, doing both media recreations and her own original designs, the latter inspired by the works of designers Bob Mackie and William Ware Theiss. Since then, she has won major awards in competitions spanning 6 different decades. In 1983, she founded Costume-Con®, an

annual conference dedicated to the art and craft of costume. In 1995, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Costumer's Guild. Her work appears in the Star Fleet Technical Manuel, The Costume-Maker's Art, and Cosplay World. She is cited in Watching Anime, Reading Manga as one of the earliest anime-based cosplayers in the United States. She is best known for attention to detail, impeccable tailoring and workmanship, and building a full character, not just a costume.

Barbara & Elmer Laslo CULTURAL HERITAGE SPONSOR

The Barbara & Elmer Laslo Cultural Heritage Sponsor supports and promotes the creative efforts of the 2025 season of exhibiting artists through a free public wine & cheese opening reception that includes an artist talk and Q&A.

Goddesses & Queens

43	Black Queen <i>Fantasy and SF Masquerade Winner, 2003, Costume-Con 21</i> <i>Inspired by the song "The Court Of The Crimson King" by King Crimson</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
44	The Queen of Glitz <i>Display costume for CACCC 2021 Show "Courts of Jewels"</i> <i>Because one can never wear too many rhinestones</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
45	The Goddess Kali <i>Masquerade Winner, 2014, Costume-Con 32</i> <i>Inspired by a package of embroidered sari silk remnants</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS

Walk Like An Egyptian

46	Isis <i>Fantasy and SF Masquerade Winner, 1998, Balticon</i> <i>Based on a figurine from the Smithsonian Catalog</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
47	Egyptian Suit <i>Future Fashion Show Winner, 2006, Costume-Con 24</i> <i>Retro/futuristic style suit with longline jacket and two-tier hobble skirt tailored in camel-colored wool</i> <i>After a design by Alison Kondo</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS



Sally C. Fink—"Dusk"
closeup, 2011



Lisa Ashton—"Dance of
Destruction"; the Indian
Goddess Kali, at a cos-
tume convention SF
Masquerade in 2014



Karen Schnaubelt—
"Egyptian Suit"

Glorious Greens

35	Malachite Samurai <i>Masquerade Winner, 2000, Philcon Inspired by a Mulan cosplay</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
36	Forest Mother <i>Future Fashion Show Winner, 2022, Costume-Con 40 A forest-dwelling dryad</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
37	Coronation Gown <i>Future Fashion Show Winner, 1988, Costume-Con 6 Inspired by Lady Jessica from "Dune" and by "Poison", a perfume launched in 1985</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS

Dawn and Dusk

38 & 39	Dawn and Dusk <i>Fantasy and SF Masquerade Winner, 2011, Costume-Con 29 Sally C. Fink: Costume designs, costume construction and headpieces Karen Schnaubelt: Beaded belts with rochaille and bugle beads, embellished with peyote beaded "ropes" Two Art Nouveau Erté inspired outfits in complementary colors</i>	Sally C. Fink and Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
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Ladies of History

40	Mae West <i>Historical Masquerade Winner, 1988, Costume-Con 6 Recreation of an Edith Head gown for Mae West in "She Done Him Wrong"</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
41	From Shawl to Wrapper <i>Historical Masquerade Winner, 2023, Costume-Con 39 An 1870's wrapper (housecoat) made from a damaged 1860- 80's Kashmir woolen shawl purchased at a flea market</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
42	1500s Elizabethan Loose Gown and Kirtle <i>Society for Creative Anachronism Costumes, 2004/2006</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS

COSMIC COLLABORATIONS EXHIBIT ARTWORK

1	Purple Wool D'Ates Coat, 2022	Sally C. Fink	\$250
Quilts			
2	Alien Friendship Quilt	Lisa Ashton	NFS
3	The World According To Me Crazy Quilt	Lisa Ashton	NFS
4	Oriental Flowers Wall Quilt	Lisa Ashton	\$300
5	Purple Stained Glass Quilt	Lisa Ashton	NFS
6	Wake Up!	Lisa Ashton	NFS
7	Starry Night Lap or Wall Quilt	Lisa Ashton	\$300
8	Tall Ships Quilt	Lisa Ashton	NFS
Whimsical, Absurd, and Implausible Headwear			
9	Egyptian Gods—Sobek <i>Carved foam, airbrushed</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
10	Egyptian Gods—Horus <i>Carved foam, airbrushed</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
11	Ice Queen <i>Made of buckram for the base, airbrushed foam for crystals. Central crystal made of resin and hot glue.</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
12	Garden Hat <i>Foam core, polymer clay, cardboard, bits and bobs</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
13	Rainbows and Unicorns <i>Once upon a time in the land of rainbows and unicorns</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
14	Pumpkin Zombie <i>Made from old wigs and various trash found around the house</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
Quilts, Continued			
15	Double Pink Antique Quilt Top	Lisa Ashton	NFS
16	Egyptian Quilt	Lisa Ashton	\$500

Whimsical, Absurd, and Implausible Headwear, Continued

17	The Black Queen <i>Worn with the costume of the same name</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
18	The Stars My Destination <i>"Beach Blanket Babylon" style oversized headpiece supported by a back brace to take the weight</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
19	The Malachite Throne <i>Inspired by the artwork of George Barr and Boris Vallejo</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
20	The Red Roses <i>Shaped felt hat base, dyed lace, velvet leaves, and wired ribbon flowers</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
21	The Jeweled Empress Adult & Mini Me <i>Brocade fabrics, hanging chains and pearls. Recreated more elaborately in doll size.</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
22	Titania <i>Made from Christmas decorations</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
23	The Queen of Atlantis <i>Soft sculpture sea creatures and rhinestones</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
24	The Brainiac Hennin <i>Buckram shaped over a balloon, pearls, pins and findings</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS

Cash & Carry Items

25	Beaded Pieces <i>Cash & carry framed beaded pieces, necklaces, pendants, and bracelets</i>	Lisa Ashton	Priced as marked
26	Corsets <i>Cash & carry corsets</i>	Lisa Ashton	Priced as marked

Steampunk Divas

27	Airship Captain <i>After a design by Jennifer Kopaska Future Fashion Show Winner, 2010, Costume-Con 28 Elegant, tailored, upper class steampunk costume. Skirt features five tiers of hand-pleated trim.</i>	Karen Schnaubelt	NFS
28	When Marlene Was The Bomb <i>Hall Costume Award, 2012, Costume-Con 30 Remade for display, 2024</i>	Sally C. Fink	NFS
29	What If <i>What if Bram Stoker's wife had been a vampire?</i>	Lisa Ashton	NFS
30	Novels by Sally C. Fink <i>Tales of the Lallouere Series: Ten Thousand Gods; Gods of Crystal, Gods of Dreams; Gods of Changeling Love; Gods in Flux and Flame; Gods of the Singing Sun The Feathered Lady, The Sylvan Cities, The Couture War Series Book One: The Vanished Thread</i>	Sally C. Fink	\$10 each

Quilts, Continued

31	Antique 9-Patch Rescue Quilt	Lisa Ashton	\$250
32	Square In A Square Quilt	Lisa Ashton	NFS

Cash & Carry Items, Continued

33	Parasols <i>Cash & carry parasols</i>	Lisa Ashton	Priced as marked
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Quilts, Continued

34	Remnants of Space	Lisa Ashton	\$150
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