

The Silhouette

December 2025 Newsletter of CAMEO Quilters Guild Vol. 32 No. 4

HOLIDAY POT LUCK THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 6:30PM

Remember to bring your plates, silverware and a dish to share with everyone. We are also exchanging a gift this year (which is optional); **bring it wrapped**, price range \$10-\$15. We will be playing a game.

If you did not sign up at November's meeting, just take a look at the list to see what may be needed.

Please wear a Christmas sweater!

Maggie Smith, Hospitality



MAIN DISH

Carole Gilbert
Carmen Sluter
Becky Stange
Martha Nordquist
Ann Bonnell
Jennifer Warren
Jeanne Flynn

GARLIC BREAD

Judy Murray

SALAD/SIDES

Maggie Smith
Carol Herzberg
Sally Carl
Rosemary Spatafora
Theresa Nielsen
Marsha Klopfer
Marjorie Fromm
Mary Peltier

OTHER

Joline Bowdich
Laura Ball Carey

DESSERT

Kathy Wilson
Loreen Garrison
Donna Griffith
Terri Thomson
Dawn Mayer
Terry Poduska

DRINKS

Jackie Speer
Chris Schulte
Carolyn Johnson
Deb Johnson
Sue Thompson



**Deadline for the
January 2026 issue
is Jan. 6.**

There is NO
"Slip of the Keyboard"
in this issue.

DON'T FORGET

Chandelier Block Exchange

Don't forget to bring your Chandelier blocks to December's meeting! See the November newsletter for pattern and directions (check our website). Put your blocks in a bag with your name and give to Chris Schulte. You will be given a new set of blocks in January from those participating.

Sleep at Home Retreat

There's room for more quilters at our "Sleep at Home" Retreat on December 12 & 13 at Birmingham United Methodist Church, 1589 W Maple Rd., Birmingham from 9am-9pm. Cost is \$20 for both days, **pay at the door!**

Chris Schulte

ROUND ROBIN EXCHANGE

Remember to bring your blocks to exchange at the December meeting. We're off to a great start with many members joining in on the fun.

Theresa Nielsen



A Message from the President Cheryl Cawley

Hello Fellow Cameos!

It's early December but it feels like late January as we are CRAZY COLD! It's a good thing we have plenty of quilts to snuggle under.

This month will be our Holiday Potluck where we can really share our fellowship with each other. Don't forget your plate and utensils. Hopefully many of you will be able to share all the quilty gifts you have made for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza at Show and Tell (my favorite part of the meetings). We won't have Door Prizes, Charity table, nor Fabulous Finds this month so that everyone can enjoy the meeting.

Membership

Sharon Cratsenburg



Welcome Becky Freese of Madison Heights and Susan Thompson of Warren who joined CAMEO during the November meeting. We now have 46 members!

Happy December Birthday to: Chris Schulte, Jeanne Flynn and Jennifer Warren.

Charity

Maggie Smith



HAVEN donations were delivered on Dec. 3. Our total donation came to \$955.00

CAMEO members have generous hearts. The bags were well received and greatly appreciated.



Participatants of Norma Stark's "Fandango" workshop in November 2025 had a great time!

Programs & Workshops

Theresa Nielsen
VP, Facilitator



A big Thank you to **Norma Stark** for another great presentation to our guild in November. There was lots of excitement in the air and we had a few guests join us. Everyone seemed to enjoy the paper piecing process she shared with us. There were a few comments, such as "No way I could ever do that." I have to say I never tried it myself but just might in the future. I'll start with something small. After all, we're never to old to learn a new trick. Thanks, also, to the ladies who helped rearrange the room before the meeting and those who helped with the quilts.

Don't forget to wear those lovely Christmas sweaters to the potluck. It will be a fun evening, lots of laughs, eat and play a game or two. Can't wait to see your sweaters.

UFO CHALLENGE

I have already received some lists from members who decided to take part in this most courageous event, that never ending long list of UFOs. This is going to be the year that I get mine done and it's long. Looking forward to seeing y'all check yours off as they are completed.

| CAMEO PROGRAMS 2025-2026 | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Dec 12-13 Dec 18 | "Sleep-at-Home" Sewing Retreat Holiday Potluck |
| Jan 15 | Panel discussion with guild members Carol Gilbert & Rosemary Spatafora |
| Feb 19 Feb 21 | WhistleStop Charity Day Sew-In |
| Mar 19 Mar 21 | Rosemary Spatafora lecture: "Indigenous Quilts" National Quilting Day Sew-In Clawson Church |
| April 9-12 April 16 | Spring Retreat at Bear Lake Carolyn Johnson lecture & trunk show: "Using Panels to Make Quilts" |
| May 21 | Linda Thielfold lecture& trunk show: "Domestic Machine Quilting" |
| May 23 | Linda Thielfold Workshop "Domestic Machine Quilting" |
| June | CAMEO Potluck and Elections |

DIA Exhibition ties in with CAMEO's March Presentation

Since Rosemary Spatafora will be presenting on Indigenous Quilts in March, members may want to visit the Detroit Institute of Arts Exhibition "Contemporary Anishinaabe Art" going on now until April 5, 2026. This exhibit of Native American artwork includes painting as well as basketry, beading, pottery and textiles. One example of a patchwork blanket decorated with ornaments is shown.

Mnedo Azhgen: The Currency of our Ancestors, 2025

"Hand-dyed linen and cotton, wool, flattened US quarters, cones, thimbles, glass beads, float copper, cowrie and conch shells, fossils, birchbark, wool yarn, polyester ribbon and artificial sinew. Artist: Jason Wesaw - Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

The Artist's Words

"In the Potawatomi language, *mnedo azhgen* means 'a spirit bridge'. We need our helpers to guide us as we walk through life in the physical world. Through songs, feasts, and ceremonies, we make humble offerings to our ancestors for their reminders of how to live in a good way. The ornaments on this blanket are the type that are pleasing to mnedowek (spirits) and remind us of our connection to the past, present, and future"

Admission to the DIA is free to visitors from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

submitted by Louise McCormick Glazier

"I saw the exhibit last Friday and it's amazing! The work dedicated to those who died from Covid was powerful and seeing the video at the end of the exhibit was the perfect thing to see right after Thanksgiving.

I took lots of photos to add to my power point presentation for CAMEO in March."

Rosemary Spatafora



Patchwork blanket



Blanket detail



Elegant ensemble



Child's beaded bonnet

TEXTILE ART, FINE ART, AND THE SHIFTING LINE BETWEEN THEM

written by Carolina Oneta, edited from *Modern Quilting* blog, November 2025



For generations, “fine art” was a guarded category: painting and sculpture sat at the top, while textiles were shunted to “craft,” “decorative,” or “applied” arts. That boundary wasn’t neutral—it reflected social hierarchies, gendered labor, and institutional habits. Today, that line is moving. Major museums, curators, collectors, and artists are reframing textile practices as central to modern and contemporary art, not peripheral.

Why were textiles historically excluded?

Utility over contemplation. Many textiles had everyday functions—garments, blankets, tapestries—and art history long equated utility with lower status. “Fine art” was defined as art made primarily for aesthetic or intellectual engagement, and textiles’ domestic roles were used to keep them out of that category.

Gendered labor and “women’s work.” Weaving, embroidery, knitting, quilting, and sewing were historically feminized domains. Before the women’s movement of the 1960s–70s, such work was routinely denied the title of “fine art,” regardless of its conceptual or technical ambition.

Material hierarchies and institutional inertia. Canon-building favored oil on canvas and carved stone. Fragility, conservation demands, and the variability of fibers reinforced a bias against textiles in acquisitions, display, and scholarship.

What’s changing?

Blockbuster exhibitions that center textiles as art history. Institutions like the National Gallery of Art (*Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*, 2024), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (*Weaving Abstraction in Ancient and Modern Art*, 2024), and the Smithsonian (*Subversive, Skilled, Sublime: Fiber Art by Women*) are explicitly reframing textiles as central to art history.

Scholarship that dismantles the “craft vs. art” wall. Academic writing shows how textile practices generate theory—color, structure, pattern, code, repetition—rather than merely illustrating it.

Market and institutional uptake. Museum acquisitions, curatorial posts focused on fiber, and art-fair visibility signal a durable shift, not a passing trend.

A contemporary toolkit that fits textiles. Today’s art values hybridity, social meaning, materials intelligence, and installation scale—all strengths of textile practices.

So...is textile art “fine art” now?

Increasingly, yes—when the work is conceived primarily for aesthetic/conceptual engagement, advances technique or form, and participates in contemporary discourse and display contexts. The decisive factor is not the medium but intent, execution, and framing.

What still needs work?

Residual bias. The “crafty” label hasn’t vanished; some acquisition and funding policies still encode old hierarchies.

Conservation costs. Textiles require specialized care, which can constrain display time and budgets.

Language and categories. Museum taxonomies can silo textiles away from contemporary-art narratives—even when the artists operate squarely within them.

Conclusion

Textile art has always been capable of profound aesthetic and conceptual work; what’s changed is the willingness of institutions and audiences to see it that way. As exhibitions, scholarship, and market attention converge, the old boundary looks less like a rule of art and more like a historical prejudice being corrected. The question is no longer whether textiles can be fine art—but how artists and institutions will continue to expand what fine art can be.



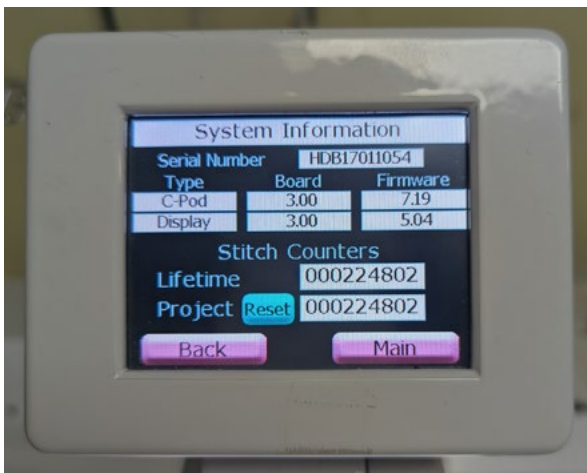
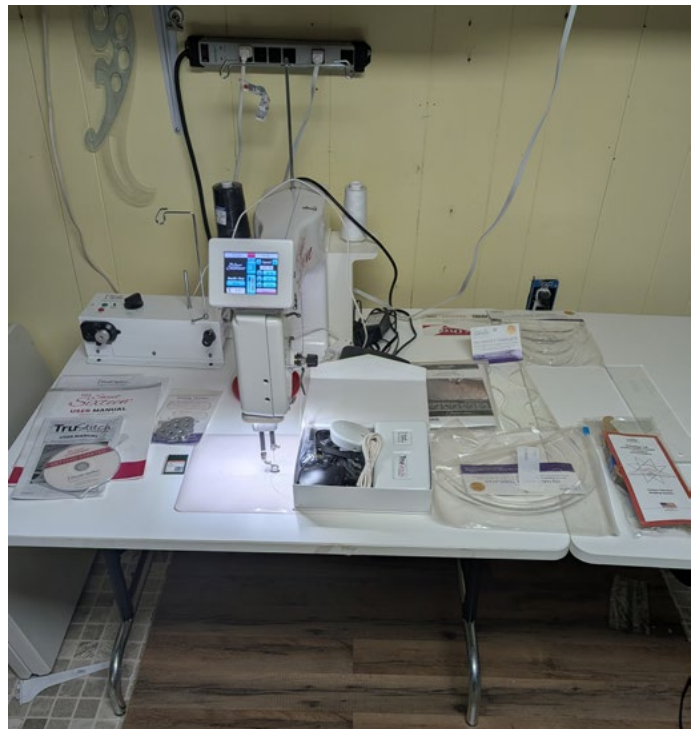
MID-ARM FOR SALE

Former member of CAMEO Quilters Guild, Betty Busker, has a Handyquilter Sweet 16 mid-arm quilting machine for sale which is installed on an adjustable 30x36 inch table. It has an 18x32 extension which will fit either side of the table. A true stitch regulator. M class bobbins, HQ bobbin winder, table overlay, all manuals and some templates are included.

The machine has only been used to quilt 7 quilts. (1 queen, 2 full and 4 smaller quilts.)

Betty is asking \$4,500. Please email Betty with your name and phone number if you are interested and she will call you back. Her email is ebusker44@gmail.com

Attached are pictures. Everything shown is included.



There will be no Fantastic Finds table or Charity table at December's meeting. November's minutes will be in the January 2026 Silhouette.