



The Wilton Historical Society is honored to be showing the work of critically acclaimed quilt designer Denyse Schmidt. Her creations are modern interpretations of classic quilt designs – contemporary, functional textile art with deep historic roots.

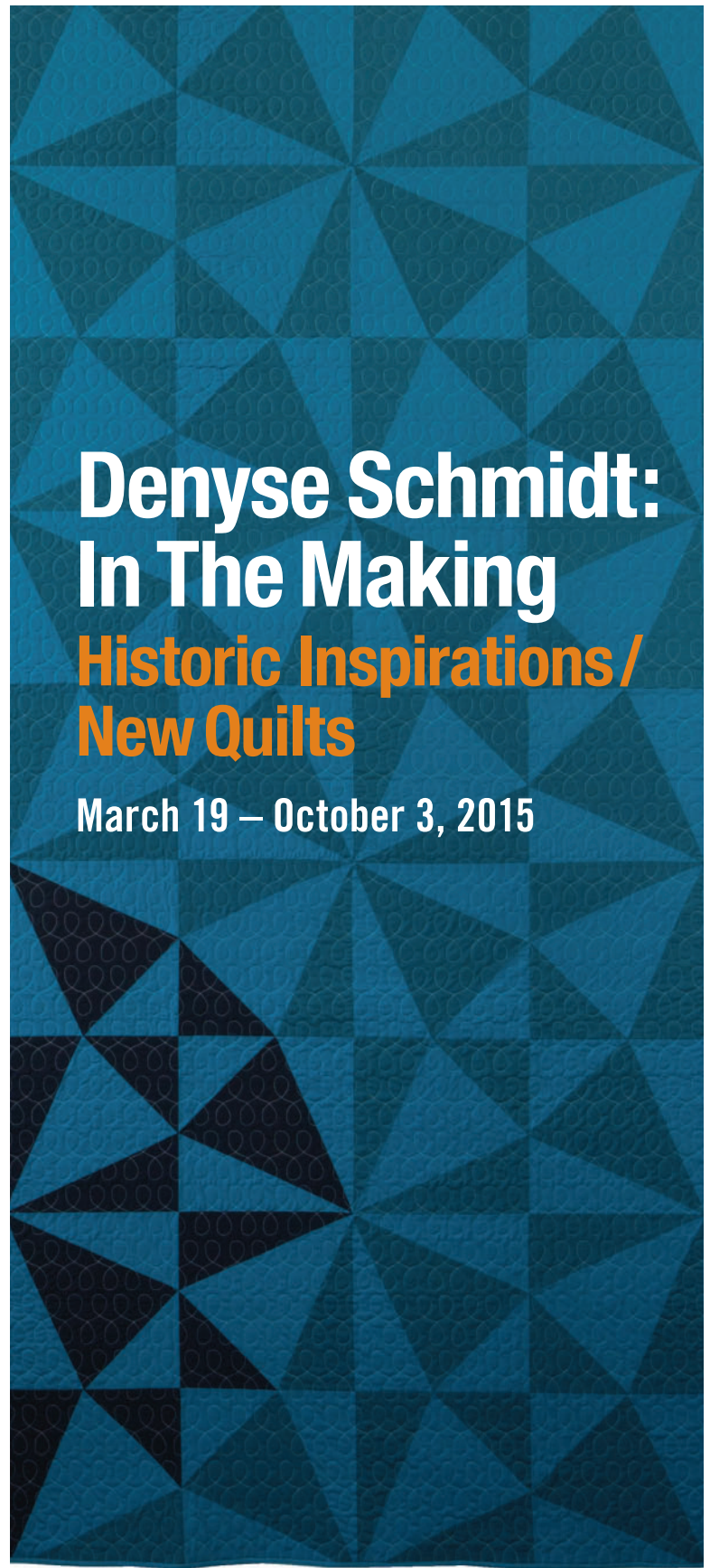
“A quilt is art, a quilt is history, and a quilt is a tactile, shared experience on many levels. Like folk music and tales passed down orally, quilts are graphic representations of stories and ideas that have emerged over the years in endless variations. Handed down from generation to generation, evolving slightly each time, the quilting patterns are themselves a living, breathing entity.” So says Denyse Schmidt as she begins to describe the deep appeal quilts hold for her and for so many people. “I’ve always loved juxtaposing old and new, and by creating quilts, I could combine – and share – my lifelong love of textiles and design.”

She was drawn to the simple charm of antique quilts, their unexpected color combinations, and the way a single block pattern can lead to an infinite number of variations. Her quilts, with their quirky style and fearless use of color, are fresh and unexpected interpretations of traditional patterns like Rail Fence, Lafayette Orange Peel, Ocean Waves, Mariner’s Compass, Streak of Lightning, Wagon Wheel, Snake Trail, and Churn Dash. Many resemble abstract collage paintings, and all share their maker’s unselfconscious directness.

Her passion for using the quilt as a springboard for contemporary design has led her on some interesting journeys. Ms. Schmidt collaborated with the Japanese department store Takishamaya, creating a small number of quilts carefully made with antique Japanese kimonos. She was selected to be part of the Philip Johnson Glass House Commissions Program, designing a quilt in a modernist style inspired by the components of house and site.

Denyse Schmidt has been designing and making quilts since 1996 when she established Denyse Schmidt Quilts. A former graphic designer and a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, she has generated international attention for her modern spin on classic quilts. Her work has been featured in the National Quilt Museum of Kentucky. In a historic factory building in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the Denyse Schmidt Quilt Studio produces three quilt collections, available from retailers nationwide. Denyse’s quilts have been featured in numerous publications including *The New York Times*; *Martha Stewart Living Magazine*; *People*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; and *Time*. Her most recent book is *Modern Quilts, Traditional Inspiration: 20 New Designs with Historic Roots*, 2012, Stewart, Tabori, & Chang. Learn more about Denyse Schmidt at www.dsquilts.com

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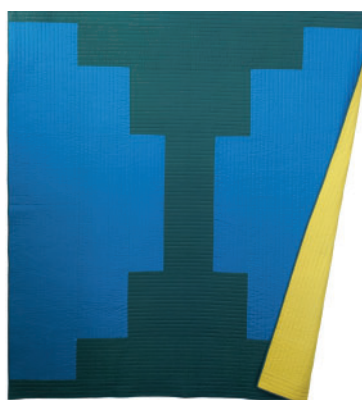
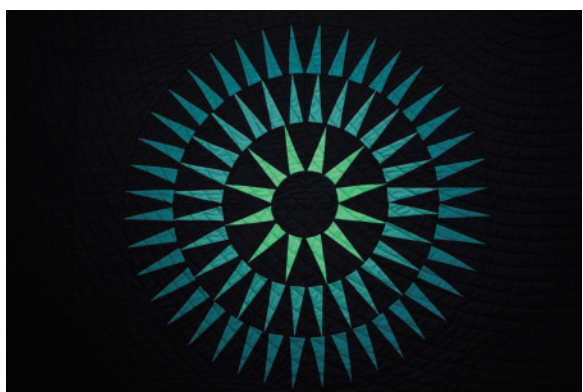
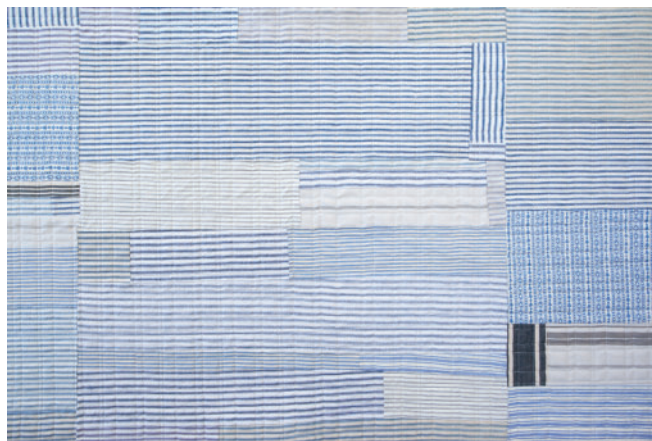
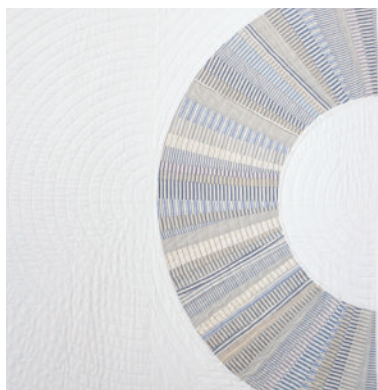
Denyse Schmidt: In The Making Historic Inspirations/ New Quilts

March 19 – October 3, 2015



Wilton Historical Society

Works in the Exhibition



Snake Charmer, designed 2004, produced 2015
New wool and cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
91 x 83 ½

Burlap & Horses, 2007
New and vintage wool, cotton, polyester, burlap
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
90 ½ x 87

Hawaiian Appliqué, 2010
Cotton
Hand appliqué and hand-quilted
42 x 41 ½

My Compass, designed 2010, produced 2015
New and vintage ticking, cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
90 x 82 ½

Shoeman's Puzzle, designed 2010, produced 2015
New and vintage ticking, cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
95 x 84

Centerline, designed 2011; produced 2013
New and vintage cotton and linen
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Angela Walters
87 x 84 1/2

The Straight & Narrow #1, designed 2011; produced 2014
New and vintage cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
95 x 86 1/2

The Straight & Narrow #2, 2011
New and vintage cotton and linen
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
91 ¾ x 85 1/2

Monolith, 2015
Cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
93 x 86

Ticking Circle, 2015
New and vintage ticking, cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
83 x 82 1/2

Ticking Scraps, 2015
New and vintage ticking, cotton
Machine pieced and quilted
Quilted by Janice Roy
83 x 85

Cover: Shoeman's Puzzle, detail

Clockwise from far left:
Ticking Circle, detail; Snake Charmer; Ticking Scraps, detail; Shoeman's Puzzle; Monolith; My Compass, detail

Photography: Takeshi Sergel