

LAMQG General Meeting

4/11/22, 7:30pm

Welcome to visitors & new members. New member Mary Farrington from OH.

Natalie introduced Chris English, focusing on improv culture & upcycling

Live from Thailand in the future (it's Tuesday there!) though based in Yorkshire UK

- Background: from Hoddleston, went to Liverpool arts University. His quilting journey started here learning about color, developed passion for drawing, painting. Always interested in fabric, prints & color. Came across The Liberty Book of Home Sewing and tried his first quilt was a brick style pattern with all Liberty fabrics. Felt like he had control of all elements of the art and loved the idea of being creative & practical. When he gifted that first quilt, it was thrown away & he's still devastated by it! Makes a lot of quilts for his son.
- Influences
 - 1) Street art is one of his biggest influences. He loves the use of color & bold designs. He also loves how artists overlay their work over the work of others. The effect of the whole is stronger than the individual parts.
 - 2) Andy Warhol- repeated patterns & bold colors and also Robert Rauschenberg with a mix of scale & prints
 - 3) The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago, (outsider artists are not formally trained in their craft) recreation of an artist's studio (Henry Darger), having all your influences & inspirations around you
 - 4) Paul Smith, fashion designer- finding inspiration in everything
 - 5) Punk- not necessarily the music but the ethos of punk. If you can play 3 chords, you can form a band & similarly if you can sew 3 stitches, you can make a quilt. Focus on expression and not corporate or formal.
 - 6) Gees Bend- loves the color choices and nuances in the fabric, reusing fabric and finding inherent beauty in it.
 - 7) Luke Haynes- reusing fabrics
 - 8) Sherrilynn Wood- improv, fantastic use of color
- Quilts
 - His journey is still evolving & he showed a mix of different work.
 - 1) hand tied nine patch using flea market fabrics & old shirts (loves pieced backs & mixing unexpected prints)
 - 2) hand quilted orange nine patch- mixed fabric lines, curtains, different zones of color, strip piecing & included some hexies from an upcycled patchwork skirt (reusing something & extending its life is an important principle for him). Back again includes mixed prints including a Bob the builder duvet.
 - 3) hand quilted HST & hexie mix- hopes that original makers (hexies) likes the idea of it going into a quilt, mixes square size & print scale, doesn't worry about lining up points, gets lots of fabric from flea markets

& charity shops- interesting fabrics you can't find anywhere else. If you widen your fabric sourcing, your quilts become more unique.

- 4) Crumb block quilt- sewing bits & pieces together. Fell out of love with machine quilting so does most things by hand or does a hybrid approach. Mix of hand & machine quilting, especially overlapping, creates interesting texture. Appliques over bumpy points but also likes how the applique layer adds something new. Anatomy of a crumb block: 2 scraps sewn together, string piecing, improv cutting, re-join & repeat. (Does not organize fabrics by color, only by whether they feel right together.)
- 5) More traditional nine patch- made from mechanics' overalls including oil stains & name patches. (His largest quilts he usually just airs out because washing can be tricky.) Loves scrappy binding as well.
- 6) Improv strip piecing- basic machine quilting that he doesn't love even though he loves the piecing, old shirts in strips & sewing scraps onto them.
- 7) Current work in progress. Top portion is a traditional nine patch, lower half is crumb blocks. improv piecing bottom section, pulls out scraps as he pulls them out of his scrap bag.
- Color
 - Color combinations in street art & graffiti
 - Not concerned with formal color theory
- Aurifil
 - Did a "street art" collection with bright colors- no neutrals with different weights, encourages experiments and variety
- Nicholas Daley, UK fashion designer that he is collaborating with- approached him to create panels that will then become garments. Some pieces have gone into vests, ponchos & a bucket hat that were featured in Vogue & on the runway. One of his quilts is being used as a display backdrop in store.
- #Bangkokorbust- Kickstarter campaign where he will be rewarding contributors with small postcards, fabric bundles, quilts inspired by his travel (based on contribution). Trip is focused on tile mosaics, silks, textile & quilt research.
- Summary-
 - 1) Use what you like, don't worry about convention- colors, print & material- its your quilt
 - 2) Necessity is the mother of invention- use what you have access to
 - 3) Explore different thrifting sources- flea markets, charity shops, old work clothes
 - 4) Find inspiration in everything & everywhere- collect stuff, sketch, take pics
 - 5) Save fabric from landfill, cotton is super intensive to produce and he's not sure we need anymore
 - 6) Contrast is key, scale, color, print, texture & design- each to their own but personally he's never seen the need for "blenders"
 - 7) Show your work- the worst anyone can say is no- its their loss.

- Q&A
 - Festival of Quilts unjuried show, fee is about \$20
 - Tying threads vary in weight & type
 - Reusing shirts- cuffs & collars, he might applique on, use buttoned panels as the backings for pillows
 - Brought some small projects on the road to work on, shared a collaboration he's working on with Jenny Jackson- a plaid EPP star
 - Taking inspiration from Bangkok nightlife, bright colors
 - Showed some of the fabric he's collecting to give his kickstarter supporters and his Thai boxing short fabrics

Went over upcoming LAMQG Gatherings including the next meeting in person (& masked)!

Membership voted to postpone elections until later this summer. Greg asked for volunteers for the election committee.

Leasa & Natalie went over upcoming events including the in person events

Lisa talked about the I Can Do That challenge. Went over what defines a modern quilt, interpretations of modern, showed examples, explained the challenge in more detail as well as the timeline for the challenge, Leasa & Lisa shared their inspiration pics.

Greg went over the ongoing challenges & the upcoming memorial event for Edna.

Show & tell and Miriam's House donations

Goodnight