



INSPIRED TO
Sew

A glimpse into the creative heart of today's most talented sewing & quilting artists.



Rhonda and Mark Lipinski
Messing Around with the SCHMETZ "Super" Needle
2014 International Quilt Market, Pittsburgh, PA

Take a deep breath . . . Mark Lipinski has a whole new notion on quilting. That's right . . . quilting with intention.

In this mad, Mad, MAD world, it is so easy to get caught up in the fury of fast and fun quilting. Certainly nothing wrong with pumping out the quilts, but now exhale . . . with Mark's new attitude of creating a thoughtful quilt with quality fabrics and notions purchased from your local shop. That's right, your LOCAL shop . . . that captivates your imagination in book and fabric inventory, classes and knowledgeable staff. Being able to shop LOCAL not only supports your local shop, but your community. Mark calls this the **Slow Stitching Movement**.

Enjoy this special issue featuring a very special Mark on a mission. Now slow down and plan the quilt that YOU want . . . that quilt that combines colors, patterns and fabrics to celebrate YOU and your legacy!
Sew SCHMETZ!

Rhonda

Rhonda Pierce
Marketing Director & Publisher
SCHMETZneedles.com

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Cover: **Mark Lipinski is on a Mission!**

Interview by: **Rita Farro**
www.Ritassewfun.blogspot.com

What Inspires
YOU to Sew?



There's an App for That!



MARK LIPINSKI PRESENTS

the **slow**
stitching
movement



*Creating, Promoting,
and Sustaining a New
Vision in Quilting*

Mark Lipinski — *Marching to the Beat of His Own Drummer!*

Mark Lipinski lives his life with joyful exuberance. His magazine, **Quilter's Home**, became a runaway hit because it was unlike anything the quilt world had ever seen. Quilting enthusiasts embraced his wild conversational style. Every page made you feel like you were inside Mark's head (where very little editing goes on). He writes exactly like he talks and he revels in humor and unpredictability. Swimming upstream is how he gains speed and strength.

After starting his working life as a social worker, Mark became a successful television producer — eventually producing **Oprah** and **The View**. Although quilting started out strictly as a hobby — Mark was soon invited to teach and speak at the biggest quilting events in the country. Not only did he become an accomplished quilter — he designed patterns, and created his own signature line of fabrics. He wrote just about every word in his stunningly successful magazine, **Quilters Home**. Labeled the "bad boy" of quilting because of his candor, honesty, and unfiltered opinions — he was the most entertaining speaker to ever hit the quilting circuit. By any measure, Mark Lipinski's career in the quilting industry was a huge success. Always listening to his own drummer — he was marching on the very top of the quilt world mountain.

So here did he go? What happened to Mark Lipinski?

Mark's "cupcakes" (his term for his fans) were shocked and saddened when he quit **Quilter's Home** in 2011. We continued to follow him on Facebook and were sick with worry when he had his life-saving kidney transplant in 2013. Mark couldn't travel and he had to be very careful about crowds and people contact. Although his recovery has had its ups and downs, Mark's attitude is incredible and now — one year later — he looks healthy, his eyes are bright, he is burning with nervous energy.

After a three-year absence, Mark considered himself an outsider in the quilt industry. He simply moved on. His weekly internet radio show, **Creative Mojo**, is a live two hour chat with guests from all over the world. Mark discusses the



Interview with Project Runway Season 1 Winner Jay McCarroll at FIT.



Longarmer, Karen McTavish, Posing with Mark's Poster at the Machine Quilters Exhibition.



Mark at Quilters Take Manhattan Gallery Party with Melanie Testa and Paul Nadelstern.

Mark Lipinski— Continued



Some of Mark's art journaling pieces.



actual process of inspiration and creativity with traditional artists, quilters, mixed-media artists, sewists, designers, crocheters, knitters, fiber-artists, etc.

The BIG question was — “When are you coming back to us, Mark?” His answer might surprise you.

Mark has no interest in making another quilt-under-a-deadline. He doesn't want to crank something out to go with a new fabric line or magazine or book deadline. In the last three years, he became troubled and disillusioned with the focus of his personal patchwork and stitching journey and that of the fiber and quilting industry, too. *“Everything, including my own work, became about FAST AND EASY. Visit a bookstore or newsstand and look at the current book and/or magazine covers — they are all packed with the same words: FAST, FASTER AND FASTEST . . . QUICK AND EASY. In an effort to appeal to the internet mentality, patchwork and quilting has been dumbed down and this trend has all but eradicated our creative process. When designing for a book or magazine we are urged to keep it simple so the pattern pages don't waste valuable real estate. Is it any wonder we see Rail Fence or Square in a Square quilts in just about everything we buy? We have lost that soulful level of creativity and stitching and process and excellence that made quilts matter.”*

Mark went on to say, *“I am getting rid of my fabric stash. I gave away over 1600 books and magazines to people who may actually need what I am not using. I am finally, after 20 years of quilting, going to make a quilt that matters, an important quilt, just one quilt that will mean something and be reflective of my life and the time in which I lived. There won't be a deadline, and I plan to drown in my individual creative process, new techniques, and excellence in execution. Maybe I'll add some appliqué, some words or text, and definitely embellishment. I'm going to take my time with it, buy the very best fabric and notions I can afford from my local shops first (called “ethical buying”), lay out a pattern and carefully choose the colors, designs, and techniques that will tell my story. It will be my legacy quilt. Don't we quilters deserve to make just one ‘important’ quilt in our lifetime? A legacy quilt that will say who we were, what our lives were like, and celebrate the original, creative art we leave behind . . .?”*

Mark Lipinski— Continued

Mark went on to say that while speed should probably never be the point of any art or creative endeavor, he still thinks there is a need for “fast and easy” patterns and projects. But this time, he wants to take it slow, live and create in the moment, perfect his skill, and appreciate the process of making an excellent quilt. He referred to his new way of thinking as **“The Slow Stitching Movement.”** You might think of it as the difference between fast-food eating and a fine dining experience. There is a time and place for everything — but you should ask yourself which one will you remember ten years from now? The Big Mac and fries from McDonald’s? Or the perfectly cooked fillet mignon and delicate chocolate soufflé from Morton’s Steak House?

The “Slow Movement” is not new. The Slow Food Movement was created by Carlo Petrini in Rome in the mid 1980’s. Journalist, Carl Honoré, wrote his international best seller, **In Praise of Slow: How a Worldwide Movement is Challenging the Cult of Speed**, in the early 2000’s in which he suggests the concept of “slow” can be applied to everyday life. It was over a regular lunch meeting several years ago with close friends, Liza Prior Lucy and Meg Cox, that Liza brought up the ‘slow’ issue and how she thought it might relate to patchwork. She urged Mark to develop the idea and run with it. He has.

Mark says, *“First of all, Slow Stitching does not mean hand stitching. Slow Stitching does not mean turning down the speed regulator on your sewing machine. It means you should take your time and pay attention to the process of your art, allow yourself the space to make something that matters, on a deeper level than just having a finished project.”*

“Why?” he continues, “Because your creative time matters. Because what you do and how you create matters. Because what you learn about yourself and your place in the world by being alone with your thoughts while you create, and reflecting on the life experiences that have formed you, and are continually ‘re-forming’ you into who you are, while you create matters. YOU matter.”



Mark lecturing at Quilt Canada.



Teaching a class in Chicago.



Mark demonstrating work on a design wall.

Mark Lipinski— Continued



Mark's home in New Jersey.



Mark's personalized New Jersey license plate.

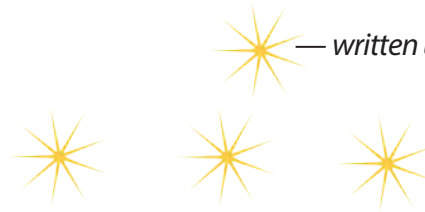
"I'm simply urging quilters, and needle-pointers, embroiderers and rug hookers, tatters and crocheters, knitters, long-armers, apparel sewists, and all fiber artists to 'create in the moment, to organize your workspace and your projects consciously, and stitch with focus and intention. Make your work and creative process benefit you on both internal and external levels. Don't just sew or stitch or knit or embroider, but put your whole heart and attention into it, for the benefits of personal growth and increased creativity. Build a community of like-minded slow-stitchers around you. Buy the very best quality of supplies you can afford and create while celebrating the process – not necessarily the result."

"If you take your time to choose and study new techniques, pattern, design, color and textures you want in your quilt or stitching project — then work toward excellence as a long term goal, through your focus and commitment to your art and to yourself, there will be rewards beyond just having the completed project at hand. If you invest and practice the process of The Slow Stitching Movement — intentional, focused, and soulful work — you may reap the health, emotional, financial and spiritual benefits that have become limited at best, or eliminated altogether by the rushing through and/or the dumbing down of your creative process. The point of slow stitching is more than just quality versus quantity. It's about leaving behind work that actually means something, not just a piece of fabric and stitches."

Visit **The Slow Stitching Movement** website at www.slowstitching.com

Check Mark's webinar schedule. The next Slow Stitching encore webinar is July 10, 2014 at 1:00 PM EST. Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/1qf8d2h>

— written by Rita Farro



Sewing Star

Mark Lipinski— Continued



Mark with Designer Linda Lum-DeBono in her home for Quilt Out Loud.



On the set of Iowa Public Television's Quilts of Valor Special with Alex Anderson, Marianne Fons and Eleanor Burns.

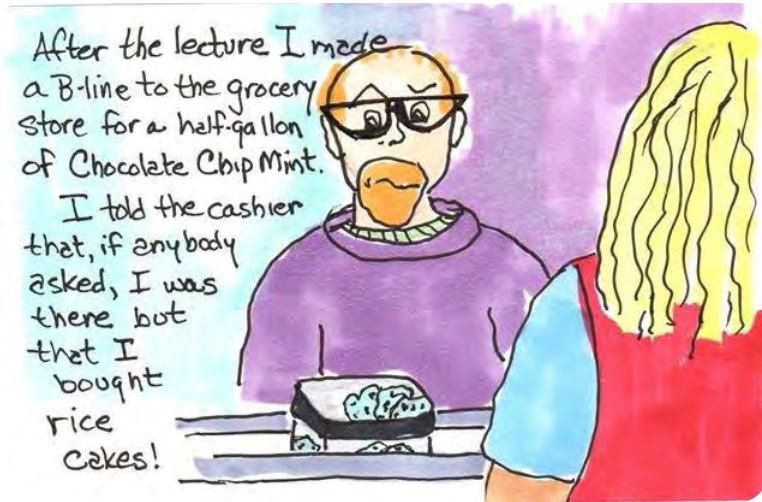


Mark with his kidney donor, Mary Eichler taken just minutes before being wheeled into surgery.



On the QNNtv set.

Mark Lipinski— Continued



Post-lecture Facebook drawing.



Winning the First Annual Quilt Design Competition for Quilt Alliance!



Mark with Eleanor Burns on her Quilt in a Day webinar.



Mark with Rita Farro.

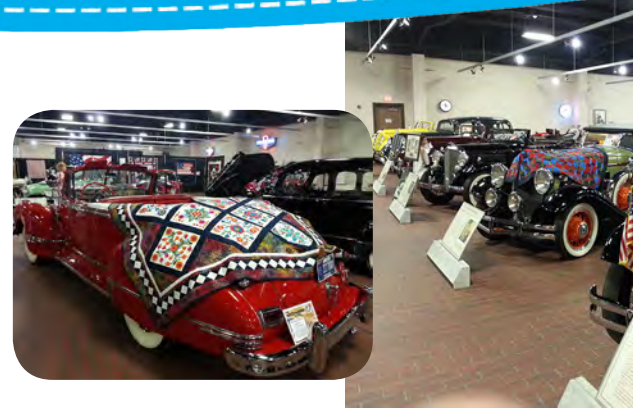
Stitch Inspiration



Grandma is Coming

Quiltmaker: Bonnie Rhoby, Middleville, MI
 Quilted by: Bonnie Rhoby

A photo reproduction of the quilter's grandchildren.
 Hand painted and needle turn appliqué.



Roses for Freedom

Quilted by: Deb Luttrell, Mineola, TX
 Based on a design by Sharon Pederson, Black Creek, BC, Canada

Quilted by

by Islan

Hostetler

Auto M



Battle of Greasy Grass

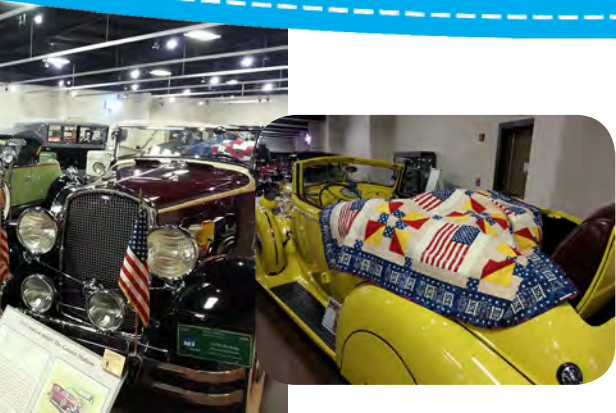
Quiltmaker: Patsy Heacox, Green Valley, AZ
 Quilted by: Patsy Heacox

Original design: Native American interpretation of Little Big Horn.

2014 Shipshewer Quilt

Lush, bucolic hills of Clydes
 peacefully grazing and road
 are everyday scenes sprinkl
 LaGrange County, home t
 Festival. As a Schoolhous
 to educate and elevate th
 piece of steel that makes o
 the SCHMETZ needle. Each
 am eager for this road trip
 meeting this years' quilting
 Karen Eckmeier, inspiration
 beautiful quilts on display.
 warming area is like visitin
 you can enjoy next year's f





in Honor
and Batik

's Hudson
Museum

Flying for Freedom

Quilted by: Eleanor Burns, San Marcos, CA



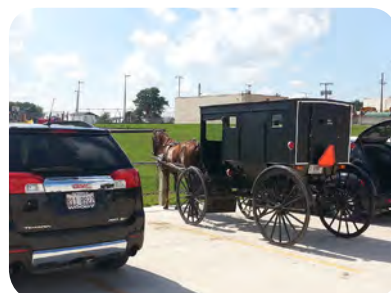
Arlington

Quiltmaker: Mary Martha Scott, Berne, IN
Quilted by: Nancy Scott of Masterpiece Quilting

Reproduction of an antique quilt with brick red and cream fabrics.

Shipshewana June 25 - 28 Festival Shipshewana, IN

...dadales working fields, cattle
...dside horse drawn buggies
...ed throughout picturesque
...to the Shipshewana Quilt
...e instructor my mission is
...ne respect of that little 2"
...our sewing machines hum,
...h year — my fifth year — I
...to Amish country. Besides
...g icons like Mary Fons and
...runs deep with classes and
...For me, visiting this heart-
...g grandma's house. I hope
...Festival June 24 - 27, 2015.



Rhonda



Rhonda's Favorite Quilting Needles

SCHMETZ manufacturers 17 needle types so you have a great choice. Sometimes technique will dictate needle choice, other times, the thread or fabric. I always like to say “it’s a dance between the needle, thread and fabric with **YOU** and your technique as the leader.” If one needle is not performing to your expectations, don’t worry, needles don’t have feelings — change to a different needle type or size. Here are my top four **SCHMETZ** needle choices for quilting:

- Microtex** — For piecing and stippling in sizes 70/10 or 80/12. The Microtex is my “must have” needle for sewing on batiks and for appliqué. Because this needle has a “very slim acute point” it wears out faster. I can usually see an inconsistent stitch or hear a click when this needle is ready to be changed. This needle easily creates a stitch of precision!
- Quilting** — The taper of the needle point is more severe, so the sewing experience is a bit different. Available in two sizes, I use the 75/11 for piecing and the larger size 90/14 for the actual quilting.
- Topstitch** — The extra long eye on this needle is especially helpful when working with heavier, multiple or even aged (poor quality) threads. There is less friction on the thread passing through the eye resulting in less shredding and breakage. I mostly use size 90/14 for quilting.
- Universal** — This work horse of a needle works with nearly all fabric types to create a stitch with integrity. This needle has the widest assortment of sizes from the finest 60/8 to the largest 120/19. Yes, I have more Universals in my stash than any other needle type.

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Size: 250 x 250



www.SCHMETZneedles.com

