



INSPIRED TO *Sew*

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



Rhonda Pierce and Nancy Zieman
2014 International Quilt Market, Pittsburgh, PA

Attending International Quilt Market is always a thrill. This wholesale show draws quilt shops and quilty exhibitors from around the world. Inspiration is contagious from newbie designers to established quilt businesses. Recently I took tons of pics and chose a few favorite celebrity pics with the hope that you too can sense the inspiration and energy of our favorite endeavor... sewing and quilting.

One of thousands of quilts could have been selected for the cover of this issue, but a clever little fox jumped onto the cover and won't budge. Be sure to check this sly fox along with other Timberland Critters in the ADORNit fabric collection soon to be seen at your local shop.

In this issue meet Lauren Taylor, the beautiful design talent of LLadybird . . . and what a sewing room she has! Then the Quilt Alliance has a mission for YOU to take an active role to *Document, Preserve and Share* quilts. One easy way to do that is to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL your quilts. That's right — claim your artistry and your power. Label your quilts! Your quilts, no matter the skill level, are part of sharing your personal story. LABEL your quilts! The next generation will be so glad you did.

Sew SCHMETZ!

Rhonda

Rhonda Pierce
Marketing Director & Publisher
SCHMETZneedles.com

In this Issue:

- Sewing Star:** **Lauren Taylor**
Lladybird
Page 3
- Sewing Star:** **Quilt Alliance**
Document, Preserve, Share
Page 9
- Celebrity Watch:** **Int'l Spring Quilt Market/2014**
Page 6
- Stitch Inspiration:** **Timberland Critters**
Page 8
- In My Sewing Room:** **Iris Pins**
Page 12

Cover: **Timberland Critters**
www.ADORNit.com

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

What Inspires
YOU to Sew?



There's an App for That!



Sewing
Star

Lauren Taylor



LADYBIRD

Issue 6



Lauren Taylor — *Lladybird*

Lauren Taylor of Nashville, Tennessee, is the beautiful young woman behind the popular sewing blog, ladybird.com. Mood Fabrics invited Lauren to become a Mood Sewing Network blogger because her garment sewing is impeccable and creative. Lauren has a passion for sewing, a gift for writing, and an irreverent, joyous attitude about life.

When asked about her current sewing, she said, *“right now, I’m focused on transitional pieces that will work for the wishy-washy Tennessee weather — leggings, long sleeve t-shirts for layering, light jackets, and knit dresses. The weather in Nashville can change from below freezing to pushing 70 degrees in the matter of an afternoon (and we’ve got the tornadoes to prove it!). I’ve also started planning my summer wardrobe — mostly in the form of happy day dreams :) — I’m thinking lots of breezy lightweight cotton dresses and linen shorts.”*

In her adult life, Lauren has mostly worked non-sewing jobs. She spent six years answering phones at an ad agency and now works as a personal assistant for a female entrepreneur. She also has a small part time job helping a local clothing designer with assembling piece work for her line (she LOVES that job). Lauren would like to teach sewing classes in her local area.

Birds often serve as Lauren’s inspiration. At one time, Lauren had a local clothing line, **LLADYBIRD**, so that’s what she named her blog. **Ladybird** is a nickname people gave her because of her bird tattoo.

Her lifetime favorite garment is her Fabulous Birds dress. Inspired by a vintage pattern from the 1940s — she chose a silk georgette by Marc Jacobs from Mood Fabrics. Making the dress was a true labor of love — from the initial muslins (and the fact that her pattern was lacking its original instruction sheet!), to learning how to handle the fabric. *“SCHMETZ is my sewing machine needle of choice — and the 70/10 Microtex needle makes perfect stitches in fine silk. The most important thing when working with silk is to always start with a FRESH, new needle.”* After the whole dress came together beautifully, she pulled out the big guns and made a bias cut slip of 4 ply



Lauren Taylor



Lauren modeling her Fabulous Birds dress.



Lauren’s sewing room.

Lauren Taylor— Continued



Lauren (r) and friend visiting "The Garment Worker" on Fashion Avenue, New York City.

*Lauren's advice:
Always start
with a fresh
SCHMETZ
needle!*



silk to wear underneath. The end result is perfection and she can wear it for pretty much any occasion that comes her way.

When sewing on knits, Lauren loves to make hems using the SCHMETZ Stretch Twin 4.0 needle. Her special tip is to use Wooly Nylon in the bobbin — which gives the finished hem some nice additional stretch.

When asked what sewing brings to her life, Lauren thoughtfully replied, *"Sewing brings me PATIENCE. It forces me to slow down (sometimes I feel like a hummingbird, the way I race around all day!) and focus on the small parts that make up a whole. It gives me a wonderful creative outlet and a reason to be a perfectionist at something. It also challenges me and forces my brain to think outside the box when faced with an issue. Oh, and it gives me some pretty sweet clothes."*

Lauren recently went to New York City to meet up with some Mood Sewing network bloggers. *"Fabric often inspires me. I bought a gorgeous piece of silk in vibrant colors of blue and purple, and every day I think about that fabric. I don't know what it will become. But I am obsessed . . ."*

Lauren is lucky because she has a big, bright, inspiring, dedicated sewing room. Her landlord even agreed to paint the room her favorite shade of turquoise. She has space for her sewing machine and her serger so each has their own table and work space. She has room for a cutting table and ironing board, and lots of storage for fabric, books, and patterns.

Like every busy woman, Lauren has the problem of TIME. *"Whether it's getting up early to do a little bit of sewing before work (part of my ~power hour~ in the morning, yeah I know that's dorky!), or sneaking in 10-20 minutes when I can find it . . . I always find a way. If you want to do something badly enough, you will find the time to make it happen."*

— written by Rita Farro

www.ladybird.com
www.moodsewingnetwork.com



Lauren with fellow Mood Sewing network bloggers in New York City.

Celebrity Watch



Annette Ornelas, Southwind Designs



Celine Perkins, Perkins Dry Goods



Carolyn Forster & Landauer Publishing



Sandy Klop, Moda Design Studio



Kristine Poor, Poorhouse Quilt Designs



Peg Conley, Words & Watercolors



Janice Pope, Anything But Boring



Linda Lee & Kay England



Joan Ford, Hummingbird Highway



Jessica Darling



Melody Miller, Cotton + Steel/RJR Fabrics



Sue O'Very, Sealed with a Stitch



Jinny Beyer, RJR Fabrics





Brenda Miller, Among Brenda's Quilts & Bags



McKenna Ryan, McKenna Ryan Designs



Lisa Archer, Pickle Pie Designs



Lynn Browne, Coats & Clark



Susan Brubaker Knapp, F&W Media



Angela Walters, Art Gallery Fabrics



Mary Newton & Paula Reid, Amann Mettler USA



Sara Lawson, Sew Sweetness



Eleanor Burns, Quilt in a Day



Edyta Sitar, Laundry Basket Quilts



Kristy & Shayla Wolf, Sassafra Lane Designs



Joel Dewberry, Joel Dewberry Eclectic Modern



Stitch Inspiration



What Inspires
YOU to Sew?

**TIMBERLAND
CRITTERS**
fabric collection

ADORNit
simple designs that make you happy



Sewing
Star



Issue 6



Quilt Alliance — *Document, Preserve, Share*

The mission of the Quilt Alliance is to **Document, Preserve, Share** . . . and their motto is, “We’re saving your place in quilt history.” So — what is the Quilt Alliance and what does it mean to you?

In 1993, recognizing the need to centralize information about quilts and quiltmaking, four women joined forces to create Quilt Alliance. Their mission is to inform, educate and connect people everywhere with America’s rich quilt heritage.

The Alliance founders gathered a distinguished group of quilt scholars, artists, experts and enthusiasts to develop a vision for gathering the great body of information about quilts and quiltmakers. They document and preserve the history, the art, the people and the culture surrounding American quilts.

To make this work accessible to teachers, enthusiasts and historians — the variety of Quilt Alliance projects are ongoing and ever-changing. For example:



Quilters’ S.O.S. is a key element of the Quilt Alliance. They created a downloadable manual so that anybody can conduct an interview and make the transcription available at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Hundreds of interviews are archived at the Center, where they are available for research.

<http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/qsos/manual/GuideforQSOSInterviewers.pdf>



Go Tell It at the Quilt Show! — A new oral history project designed to capture the stories of quilts where quiltmakers gather. The formula for Go Tell It! is simple: one person talking about one quilt in front of one video camera for three minutes. Unlike our Quilters’ S.O.S. – Save Our Stories project where the interviewee must be a quiltmaker, the Go Tell It! interviewee profile is much broader.



The Quilt Index is an on-line repository where tradition meets technology head-on, allowing you to use your computer to see and study more than 54,000 quilts from four centuries. This archive is unique: nowhere else can a journalist, researcher or quilt enthusiast have access to so much information about American quilts.



Maybe you own a quilt treasure like this, but what is the story? Who made it? Was it your Great-Grandmother? Who was she? Who did she make the quilt for? Could the next generation figure it out?



Label your quilts!

Quilt Alliance — Continued

In a recent post on the Quilt Alliance blog, Amy E. Milne, Executive Director of the Quilt Alliance, shared the history of this 1886 Crazy Quilt. This is a good example of how the Quilt Index documents American quilts.



Crazy Quilt



Quilt Index Record: 4F-88-FB

Sue Dee Grainger Brown of Houston, Texas made this stunning hand pieced, embroidered and embellished Crazy Quilt in 1886. The Quilt Index record states, *"Family history on this quilt states that it won first prize at the St. Louis World's Fair."* Brown's family members documented the quilt during the **Texas Quilt Search**. The quilt is included in the book **Lone Stars: A Legacy of Texas Quilts**, Vol. I, 1836-1936, by Karoline Patterson Bresenhan and Nancy O'Bryant Puentes (Austin: University of Texas Press) and was included in an exhibition by the same name in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda, Austin, Texas, April 19-21, 1986.

View this quilt on The Quilt Index:

<http://www.quiltindex.org/basicdisplay.php?kid=4F-88-FB>

Read about its history, design and construction. Be sure to use the zoom tool for a detailed view or click the "See full record" link.

World class quilter, Jodie Davis, is on the board of the Quilt Alliance, and her hope is that you will be inspired to tell your own quilt story . . . NOW, while the information is still available. Jodie says, *"American quiltmakers were anonymous and unacknowledged. Our mission is to document the history of American quilts. If you have a quilt in your family, do the interview -- Share Your Story. Who made the quilt? How was it passed down in your family? What is the meaning from the maker to the receiver?"*



Jodie Davis



Mark Lipinski

Mark Lipinski is also on the board of directors — and his message is, "please, please, please — label your quilts. Quiltmakers do not understand the power of their own artistry. If you label your quilt, it can be passed down from generation to generation — and your story will live."

What's the Quilt Alliance message? Label your quilts! In the next issue of **Inspired to SEW**, we'll have an in-depth interview with Mark Lipinski. You might be surprised by where he thinks American quilting is heading. You can always count on Mark to bring a very different point of view.

— written by Rita Farro

www.QuiltAlliance.org





What Makes an Iris Pin Sew Special?

- Slides through fabric smooth as butter
- Doesn't leave holes
- Made of 1¼" hardened steel
- Nickel-plated with super-sharp point
- 500 quantity comes in cute Klip-Klap tin
- 5000 quantity comes in the famous blue tin

Gingham Square

Compliments of Your Local Retailer

Click to Replace with Store Logo
Size: 250 x 250



www.SCHMETZneedles.com

