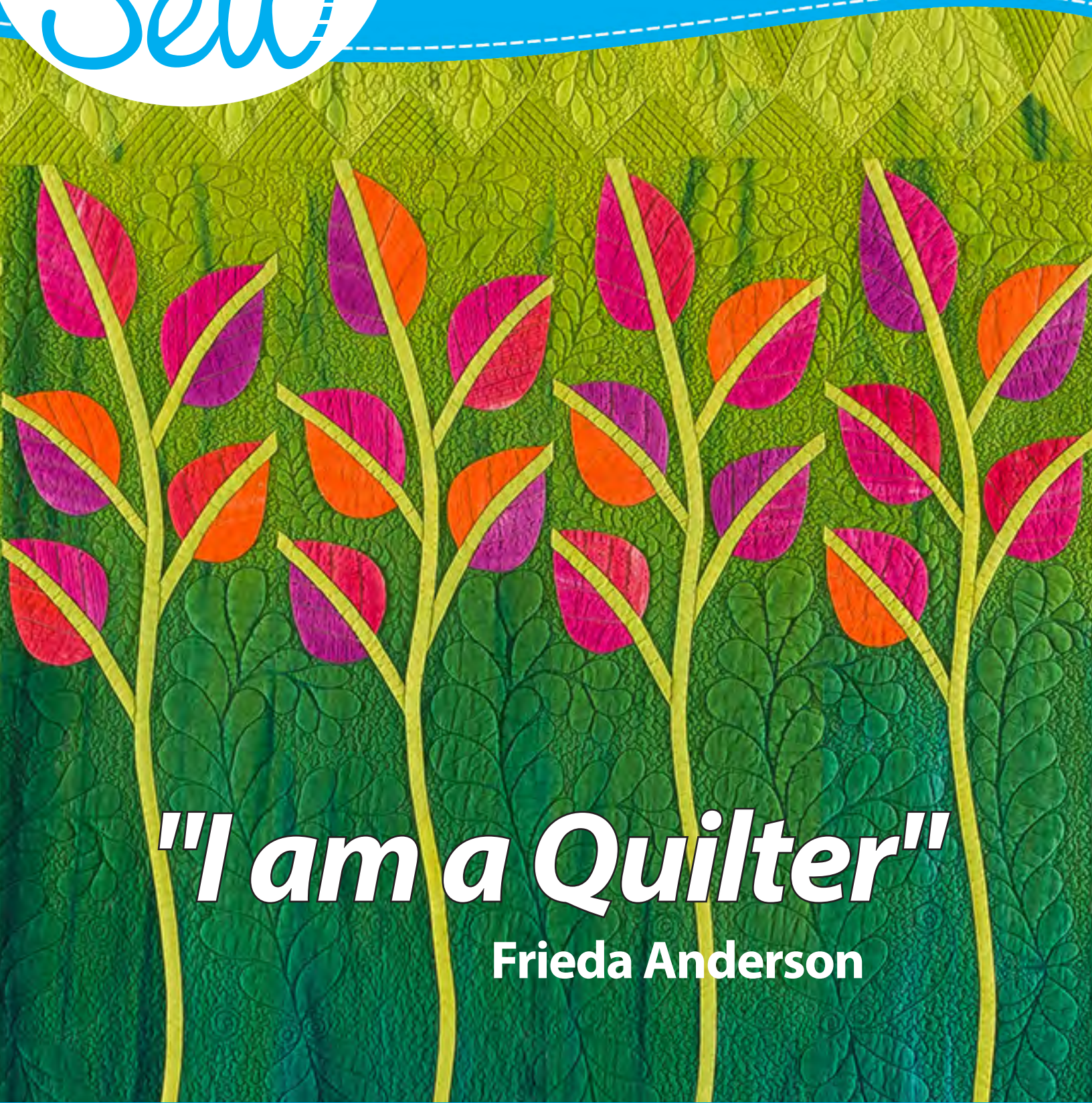




INSPIRED TO
Sew

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



"I am a Quilter"

Frieda Anderson



Frieda and Rhonda
SCHMETZ Designer Showcase
February 2018, Chicago IL

No doubt Frieda Anderson is a quilter. From hand dyeing fabric, to quilt design to a signature fusing technique, Frieda knows every step to becoming an award winning quilter. From college days, Frieda was prophetic in knowing her life work and has lost no time inspiring an army of art quilters around the world.

Enjoy this glimpse into Frieda's design style, workmanship and use of color. Take special note of her closing quote that captures her zest and spirit for living the creative quilter's life. I know you will be **SCHMETZ Inspired to SEW!**

Sew SCHMETZ & Grabbit® Too!

Rhonda

Rhonda Pierce
Spokesperson, SCHMETZneedles.com
info@SCHMETZneedles.com

In this Issue:

Sewing Stars: I am a Quilter
Page 3

Needle Points: SCHMETZ NonStick
Page 12

Cover: Unfurling

Interview by: Rita Farro
www.Ritasewfun.blogspot.com

Pictures: Frieda Anderson

Layout/Design: Paul Ragas

What Inspires
YOU to Sew?



www.SCHMETZneedles.com



There's an App for That!



Sewing
Star

"I am a Quilter"

Frieda Anderson

Issue 58





Frieda Anderson

When people ask Frieda Anderson what she does, her modest reply is, *"I am a quilter"*. Which, actually, is quite an understatement.

Frieda Anderson is a celebrated American art quilter whose award-winning quilts have been exhibited at museums, art galleries and the most prestigious quilt shows in the world. She has written many books and dozens of magazine articles and is a frequent guest on sewing and quilting television shows. Frieda makes her living as a quilter, and travels the world, teaching her innovative art quilt techniques at guilds and expos.

Frieda is one of those people who doesn't pay much attention to the established rules of the game. She clearly marches to

her own drummer, and along the way, has inspired an army of art quilters to do the same. To march to their own beat . . .

"From as far back as I can remember I have always made things. My father was a railroad executive, and when I was growing up, we moved often. When we got to a new city, my mom would put me into some kind of class. I liked to be in art classes, girl scouts, 4-H, while my sister chose tennis classes, golf lessons or playing softball. So, even though my mother did NOT sew, she is responsible for encouraging me to be creative.

My maternal grandmother was a gorgeous seamstress and maybe I inherited the love of making from her. There was a black



Unfurling

Singer sewing machine in our house and I started using it very early. I loved making clothes for my Troll dolls! But when I got to high school Home Ec and had to make an apron (something I had done when I was 10) I said I'm out of here. I went to the art department, and never looked back.

I made my first 'quilt' when I was in high school. I remember very clearly tracing around a cardboard square and cutting out squares from left over dress fabrics. I pieced that quilt on that old black Singer and my grandmother and I tied it with yarn."

Frieda went to college in Vermont. As a student, she went to a job interview, and the interviewer asked what she planned

to do when she graduated. Frieda's answer was, "I want to be a quilter." Looking back at that statement, she's sure that guy thought she was nuts, but, as it turns out, she was predicting her own future.

After graduating from college, Frieda got married and moved to Minneapolis where her husband was getting his master's degree. She got a job at the repertory Guthrie Theater in the costume department. Following that experience she thought she would like to do costumes. After her three boys all started school, she entered a fashion design program. She got a job as an assistant to a fabric representative and really got to know the sewing/quilting industry.



June Jubilee

Frieda struck out on her own to teach classes, doing what she knew best — clothing classes. During that time, she was also making quilts. A friend asked her to make a smaller version of her *Dandelion Quilt*. It was at that moment that her pattern business was born and she re-realized her dream to be a quilter.

If she wanted to make a living as a quilter, Frieda knew she'd have to build a reputation. Entering her quilts into competition would be a good way to do that. Her big break came in 2005 when her quilt, *June Jubilee*, received Honorable Mention at the prestigious AQS Show in Paducah, Kentucky.

Although she didn't invent fusing, Frieda is one of the quilt artists who brought fused quilts up to a whole new level of artistry which led to their widespread acceptance. At one

time, a fused quilt, with — GASP — RAW EDGES, was hardly considered a quilt. But the industry was quick to recognize the artistry and beauty of fused quilts. In today's quilting world, fused quilts are totally accepted and often win the top prizes.

Frieda says, "Somebody just starting out should study the different categories, and pick the one where their quilt best fits. There are many more categories available now — landscape, portraiture, people, places, things, abstract design. About the only rule that still applies is that a quilt must consist of three layers."

In her early work, Frieda would zig-zag around the edges of each element. But she liked the cleaner finish, without the zig



Fabric Dyeing

zag stitching . . . which was totally unnecessary, because the fusing made the pieces stable. After all, she was not making bed quilts, but, rather, wall hangings which would never be washed. Frieda developed her signature technique, which was to stitch in the ditch, right next to, but not on top of the design. This outline stitching added a dimensional element to her work.

Frieda's first love of quilts came from the old Amish quilts and their use of solid colored fabric. She realized that to achieve the look she wanted, she'd have to dye her own fabric. And that's her happy place. She says, "I am lucky to have a house with a large basement which I use as my office and studio. When I am not traveling and teaching my day runs something like this:

I get up and make tea, and then I go in the basement to dye fabric. I dye anywhere from 12-30 yards of fabric a day, depending on what I need. I kit all of my patterns with my hand dyed cotton and silk fabrics so in all of my classes the students use my hand dyed fabrics. That means I dye about 2500-3500 yards of fabric a year. After I'm done dyeing I get showered and cleaned up and have breakfast. The rest of my day is divided into ironing and packing kits in the morning and then in the afternoon working on new projects. I design all my quilts and maintain my own website that has a blog and a store. Periodically, I write articles for magazines and have appeared on many quilting related shows, Quilting Arts, Sewing with Nancy, and The Quilt Show. When you work for yourself you are always working."



Dandelion

Frieda loves nature and most of her inspiration comes from the natural world. Her patterns are designed around trees, leaves, her garden, her pets, and her travel. She keeps a sketch book and never runs out of ideas. She loves color and lots of it! When she is home, she spends most of her day working in her studio, and loves working with her hands and creating. "This is what I do, this is not a hobby but my passion, my job and my life work."

I have two personal favorite quilts, one in each of the techniques I work in. *Woodland Secrets* is made with my hand dyed cotton and silk fabric and is a fused picture of Jack in the Pulpits taken from a sketch I made of them in the woods. It measures 45" x 45". I was very proud when it won an award at the AQS Show in Paducah.

Unfurling is a curved piece design made with my hand dyed cotton fabrics. It measures 60" x 60". Last year, *Unfurling* won first place in the Innovative Pieced category at the International Quilt Festival in Houston and a third place at AQS in Paducah, KY. Famous for her award-winning fused art quilts, *Unfurling* represented a new direction for her. Instead of fused pieces, it's all curved piecing.

Frieda said, "An artist does not stay in one place. They evolve. One thing leads to another. It's about growth, and learning... the challenge is to be better."

www.friestyle.com

— written by Rita Farro

Frieda's Needle Tips:

1. *SCHMETZ Microtex is my favorite needle for piecing. The sharp point gives me great even stitches.*
2. *If thread is breaking or skipping, one of two things is probably happening:*
 - *The needle is old and needs to be replaced, or*
 - *The needle type and size is not compatible with the thread.*
3. *The needle types I use most frequently are:*
 - *Quilting — when machine quilting with cotton thread,*
 - *Embroidery — when quilting with rayon thread,*
 - *Microtex — when quilting with silk thread or machine piecing, and*
 - *Topstitching — when using large sized threads.*
4. *Make sure your needle is pushed all the way up into the needle holder. When changing the needle, turn the screw wide to make sure the needle is up in the machine. Secure the needle. A poorly positioned needle will cause skipped stitches.*
5. *Use the flat area of the old needle to push the tip of the new needle up into position.*
6. *Discard old needles in a small lidded container. When full, toss into the garbage.*
7. *The SCHMETZ Super NonStick needle is new. I look forward to using this special needle with fusibles.*



Under the Sea



Hummingbird



Seaside Village



Winter Forest

Friestyle



Dancing Trees



Woodland Secrets



Spring



Summer Afternoon

Gallery

Needle Points with Rhonda



SCHMETZ SUPER NonStick Needles ... *They Won't Leave You in a Sticky Situation.*

Features:

- Non-stick coating of NIT (Nickel-Phosphor-PTFE).
- Extra-large eye.
- Distinctive scarf with special eye prevents skipped stitches.
- Slightly rounded point provides trouble-free sewing.
- Strong conical blade reinforcement easily handles thick fabrics.

Applications:

- Machine appliqué & embroidery
- Hook and loop tapes
- General sewing, vinyls, oil cloth

Available Sizes:

70/10, 80/12, 90/14, 100/16



Compliments of Your Local Retailer

Click to Replace with Store Logo
Size: 250 x 250



www.SCHMETZneedles.com

