



Osage Arts Community hosts textiles exhibit

Osage Arts Community (OAC) Executive Director Mark McClane shares stories about Maries County quilters, and their passion for their craft. Read more about OAC's current display *Textiles 3* on page 12.



PHOTOS BY ROXIE MURPHY

TEXTILE 3 quilts exhibition on display at the Arts Center through Jan. 7.

Osage Arts features quilts of the ages

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BELLE — The Osage Arts Community—Arts Center (OAC) is hosting an art show through Jan. 7 featuring quilters in Maries County.

OAC Executive Director Mark McClane said the show, *Textiles 3*, set by Jan Sassmann and Josh Crow, is featuring work from three artists.

“We only exhibit 15 to 20 works of art at a time,” McClane said. “Carma Helton of Brinktown, Missouri, coordinated this exhibition, and she is a dear friend of the Osage Arts Community.”

Some of the quilts on display are from the 1890s and the other one-third are contemporary. The quilts were acquired through the artists themselves or surviving relatives.

“There are two crazy quilts from 1890,” McClane said. “For the families to still have them and let us use them is crazy.”

Kathy Corey, who has been quilting for 15 years, provide that particular set, made by her Aunt Devereux and named it Aunt Devereux’s Crazy Quilt.

she brought home from a 2008 New England vacation. She scanned the leaf for size and color, then pieced, appliqued and quilted a memory sampler.

Anderson also created *Wild Flower Sampler*, so her mother would have something homemade in her room at the nursing home; *Christmas Sampler*, in honor of the holidays; *Dorothy’s Magnolia Sampler*, from her Aunt Dorothy’s old appliques; and *Laura’s Sampler*, a design she saw in a quilt shop “Quilting with Laura” and pieced together.

Twila ‘Rowden’ Sinden inherited quilting books from her mother Nadine ‘McKee’ Rowden. Her dad would comment that Nadine took big pieces of material, cut them into little pieces to put back into big pieces again.

Sinden had been quilting for 30 years. She tried piecing the blocks by machine, but found it didn’t feel right. She upgraded to hand stitching. All of her work is by hand, piecing embellishment and quilting.

Corey’s Aunt Devereux, a great aunt in the Corey family, hand pieced, embroidered and hand quilted both Victorian quilts that have been given to Corey’s daughter Heather.

Each quilter has a distinct sewing pattern also. McClane said it is obvious the two crazy quilts were made by the same person because they have similar technique.

Corey has her own work displayed. She loves the fiber, the fabric and the expression of quilting which she acquired from her mother, Polly Howard.

She machine pieces all her quilts, hand appliques then has them custom, long arm machine quilted by Donna Spurgeon in Belle.

Some of Corey’s displayed work includes *Heather’s Flowers*, an appliqued wool penny rug style on cotton; *Rock Eddy*, a Wool appliqued on cotton, named after the Corey’s bed and breakfast on the bluffs of the Gasconade River; and *The Tree of Life* and *My Stars*, both cotton quilts

Other quilters included:

Jan Anderson of Maries County, who has been a serious quilter for 25 years. She quilts for the process not the product, for the love of fabric and the joy of working with her hands.

Anderson has two quilting frames set up in her home to accommodate her process, and her favorite is applique work. She pieces by machine, hand appliques and hand quilts.

Anderson designed the *New England Leaf Sample* after a leaf

Sinden’s pieces include *YO Baby*, a Yoyo quilt that came out of the 1920-1940’s era when all the materials to make quilts might not have been available or affordable because of the World War; *Fan Quilt*, a Victorian style early piece in her quilting career; *You Never Know Baby Quilt*, that used all the correct boy/girl baby’s room colors; and *Crazy Baby Quilt*. Another of Sinden’s quilts made in the mid 1900s was made of postage stamp size pieces of material.

“The product of thrift from World War II,” McClane said.

Not US but PS, Postage Stamp Quilt, because she said she hated to let any scrap go to waste so she pieced this and will hand quilt it later. She gives her quilts to be used.

Quilter Sadie Rowden made 1974 *Funeral Pillow* from Sheridan Carroll funeral flower ribbons, and provided a 1940 – 1950’s *Funeral Ribbon Sampler* from an unknown author.

Typically, when OAC organizes an exhibition, McClane said there is a deliberate selection to the approach. There could be homemade or machine quilted items. However, Brinktown of Vienna, gathered these quilts from friends.

“It’s amazing when people roll through here, they look at the name tags and say “I know who that is!” It brings the artwork home,” McClane said.

“Taking fabric from your world, that is what quilters do,” McClane said.

Textiles 3 will be at OAC, 100 Alverado Ave., Belle, Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 to 3 p.m.

