



“Warp Speed,” 52” x 52”, designed and pieced by Dana Jones, quilted by Rita Meyerhoff, 2023

Just Quilts

February 2023 by Dana Jones • www.danajonesquilts.com

Hot Mess Never Looked So Good

Growing up, I was a messy kid. As a teen, I was often told to clean up my room. But it wasn't a stack of half-worn clothes or makeup strewn around. It was fabric remnants, thread, paper scraps, scissors, paint, pencils, glue — you get the picture. To my mom, it was a mess. To me, it was creation heaven. My mom loved reading and book club,

women's group meetings, Bible study, all things socializing. She wasn't a maker. In her world, a maker's space was a mess.

Art supplies were few and far between. An example: We had a family pair of scissors. Permission was needed to use them.

My Chicago suburban school system quickly identified the college-bound among us and delivered us a heavy diet of math and science. There was no time for home ec or art. I didn't realize at the time that my father, a research pharmacist, was in a profession that required a great deal of creativity. I knew he could fix anything but I didn't see him as a maker. I was encouraged to admire my grandmother who was civic-minded and a good public speaker. Not so much my other grandmother who was a quilter and seamstress.

It's been a long journey to claim my identity as quilter, artist, maker. There have been tentative starts and gaps when I've followed other paths. I continue to struggle with finding my vision. So many choices, so many opportunities in the quilt world.

My constant question has become: Does this project make my soul sing?

This newsletter shares stories of places I find my soul singing. Where does your soul sing? Where do you hear your maker voice? Where are you in creation heaven? Is it a mess?



"My Body, My Choice"

12" x 6"

Designed and created
by Dana Jones, 2022

Fusible appliqué, thread
painting, hand embroidery

Invited to Represent Colorado

Maria Shell is creating a quilt entitled "The United States of the Uterus." She asked one quilter from each state to make a block that shares her/his/their state's position on reproductive rights, the quilter's personal beliefs on reproductive rights, and imagery from the state — our iconic license plate and our state flower, the Rocky Mountain blue columbine. I am honored to have made the Colorado block.

Hanging Out With Cheryl Phillips

I spent last week in Grand Junction, Colorado, working, playing and brainstorming with Cheryl Phillips, founder and creative genius behind Phillips Fiber Art:

www.phillipsfiberart.com

Coming early this summer, we will be collaborating on a Block-of-the-Month Sew Along — Stepping Beyond Drunkard's Path — that will teach you multiple ways to use Cheryl's Cut A Round tool as you make your own version of this high-energy quilt. Circles and curves become fun and easy. Watch my website for registration information coming soon.

The workshop will be offered via Zoom once a month for six months with daytime and afternoon/evening sessions.



Drunkard's Path quilt made using Phillips Fiber Arts Cut A Round tool and based on "Trail Mix" by Cheryl Phillips and Karla Schulz and featured in *Drunkard's Path: Stepping Beyond* by Cheryl and Karla.



Sign Up Now for Demystifying Design for Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP)

There's still time to enroll in either of two sessions of my Demystifying Design for Foundation Paper Piecing class but you must act fast. The first daytime session of the year will meet from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MST Thursday, February 9 and 16. That's noon-3 p.m. EST, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. CST, and 9 a.m.-noon PST. For those who work, I'm offering a Saturday class. This class will meet from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MST Saturdays, February 19 and 25. This is my first Saturday offering, and I hope folks will sign up. In this class, you'll learn to make your own patterns for blocks and pictorial quilts to FPP. To register:

<https://www.danajonesquilts.com/book-online>.



“Mini Flood of Colors” by Dana Jones

New Workshops for 2023

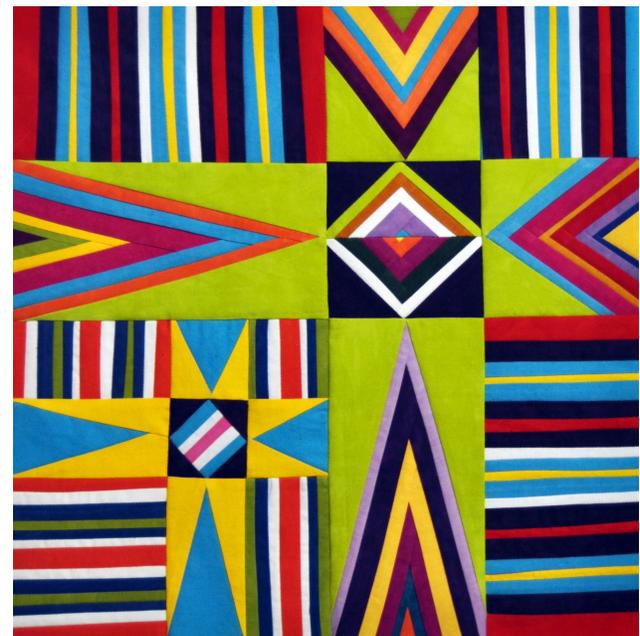
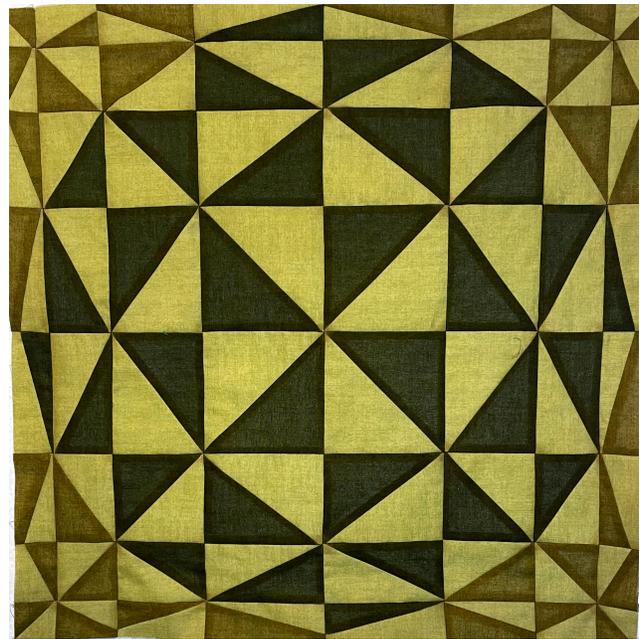
I will debut two classes during the first half of 2023: Warp Speed and Finding Your Color Sense.

In Warp Speed, my love of grids and traditional quilt blocks have found common ground. I’ve been inspired by classes I’ve taken with Sarah Nishiura and Maria Shell. Sarah provided the pattern and guidance to make the piece at the right. By warping half-square triangles and dealing with value, she showed us how to create a sense of depth and the illusion of a circle with straight lines. I Foundation Paper Pieced mine because, well because, that’s what I do.

In Maria’s Riffing on Tradition class, we selected a traditional block, got familiar with it, and then tried a range of ways to warp it, *warp* being my word. I’m still creating warped Ohio Star blocks, one pictured at right, and one below.

My next design was “Warp Speed,” the quilt opening this newsletter.

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“Don't Call Me Girl” by Dana Jones is based on the Ohio Star block.

New Classes and Lectures

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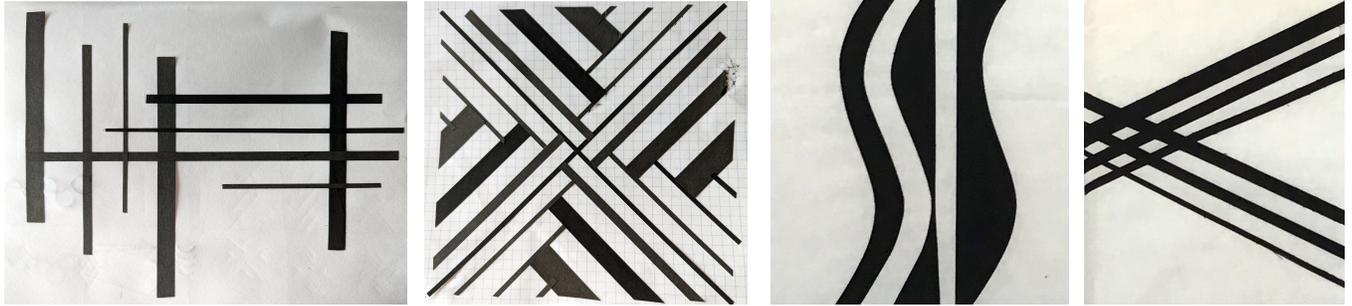
In my new class, we'll design and make quilts that give a nod to tradition then go in a new direction. The class will debut at Holly's Quilt Cabin in Centennial, Colorado. My continuing thanks to Kris Persun who schedules Holly's classes. She's always willing to try new directions with me.

Later in the year, I plan to offer this workshop open enrollment via Zoom. I'll let you know when it's scheduled and posted.



“Rainbow Promise” by Dana Jones

My second new class is Finding Your Color Sense, which I've been invited to teach at several regional quilt shows and will offer open enrollment via Zoom later in the year. For the shows, this will be a six-hour class. For Zoom, I'm working on an expanded version over four months that offers opportunities for home play between classes. If you're interested, drop me an email with what would be most valuable to you in this workshop. danaellenjones@gmail.com.



Design exercises by Martha Ritter (left two) and Linda Billard (right two). Martha and Linda participated in the 2022 Finding Your Design Sense workshop. Below, a design by Linda that she developed from her class exercise pictured above far right.

Finding Your Design Sense Returns This Spring

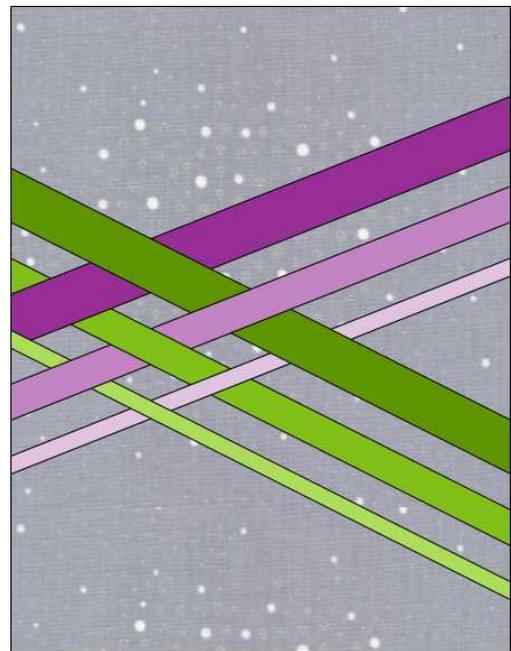
If you want to design your own quilts, Finding Your Sense of Design is the workshop for you. Over the course of five months, you'll gain experience with concepts of design, including balance, unity and variety. Through hands-on exercises in class and during home play, you'll learn to design using shape, line, color, value, texture, pattern and more. You'll identify your style and be stretched to try new things, some that may push you to new places and some that will affirm your ability as a designer.

You'll gain insight into practices of designers, including the use of thumbnail sketches, journaling and working with sketchbooks. You'll discover best practices for critique sessions that move you ahead as a designer. You'll learn where to look for design inspiration. Class sessions will look at such things as grids and what nature and architecture offer us in terms of efficient design motifs and shapes.

A goal of this workshop is for participants to become a community of quilters who support each other and find inspiration from each other. I believe creativity happens most fully in community. Because we spark each other's ideas, I encourage folks in this workshop to take time to listen to each other and share their ideas and work.

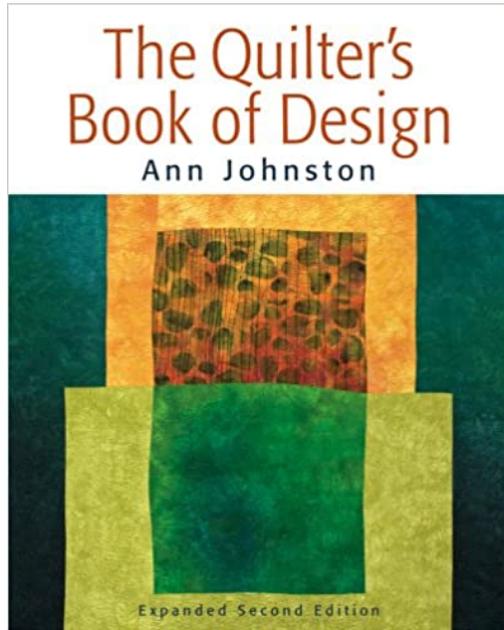
The workshop will meet from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MST the third Thursday of the month from April 20 through August 17. An additional final critique session will be scheduled as needed/desired by participants.

To register: https://www.danajonesquilts.com/service-page/finding-your-design-sense?referral=service_list_widget



Book Recommendations

A few good reads I've discovered since my last newsletter. Most of these are books I discovered or rediscovered in planning the Finding Your Design Sense workshop.

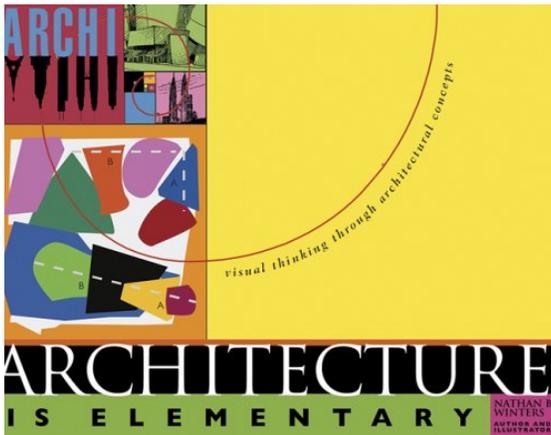


The Quilter's Book of Design

Expanded Second Edition

by Ann Johnston, 2008

Since release of the original edition of this comprehensive quilt design book by The Quilt Digest Press in 2000, it has been a go-to book for quilters wanting to create their own designs. The illustrations are worth the price of the book, and that's just the beginning of the treasures to be found in its pages. This is a must for your quilt library. As always, I recommend you go straight to Ann, not Amazon, for this book: <https://annjohnston.net/books/>.



Architecture is Elementary:

Visual Thinking Through Architectural Concepts

Revised and Expanded Edition

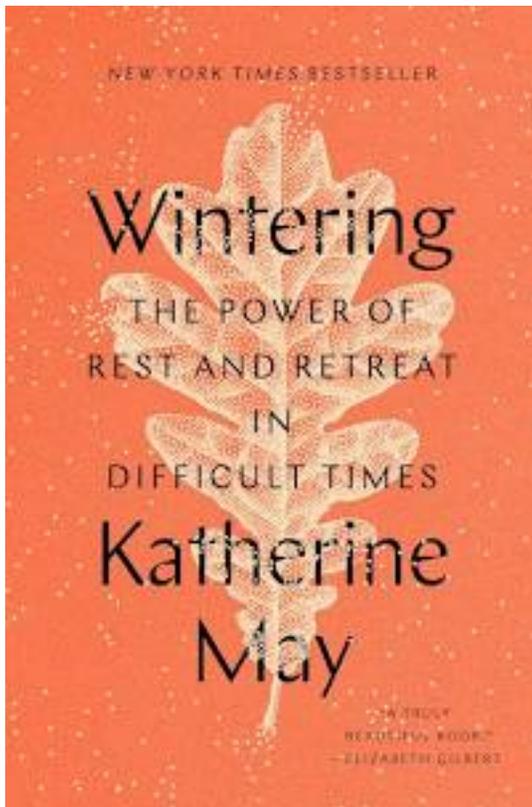
by Nathan B. Winters, Gibbs Smith, 2010

I almost didn't recommend this book but only because the typeface is so small, but the content and drawings are worth the read, and the pages are not type heavy. Reading this book will get you thinking in three dimensions, something we don't do much as quilters, but thinking through 3D drawings can do much to enhance our quilt designs. Just plan to have good lighting and maybe even a magnifier. I enlarged a some pages on a copy machine.

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Book Recommendations *Continued from previous page.*

A few more good reads.



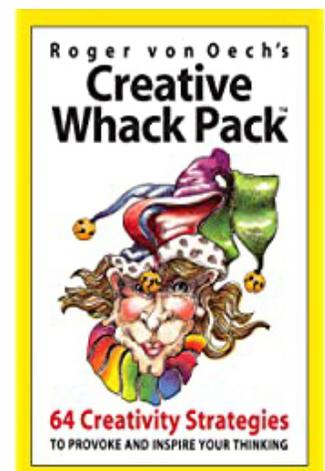
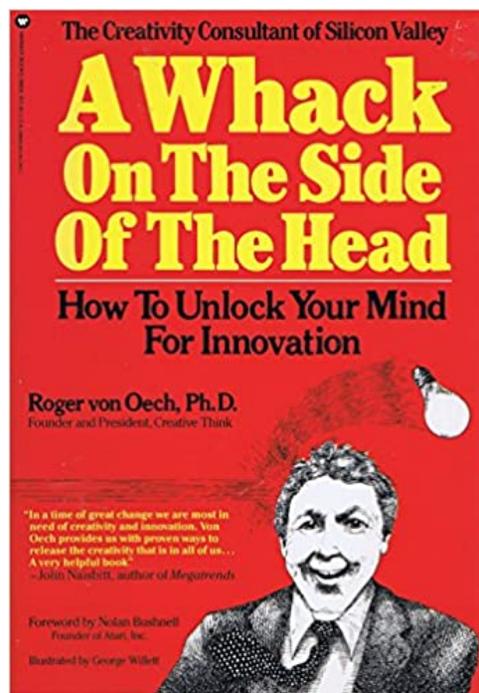
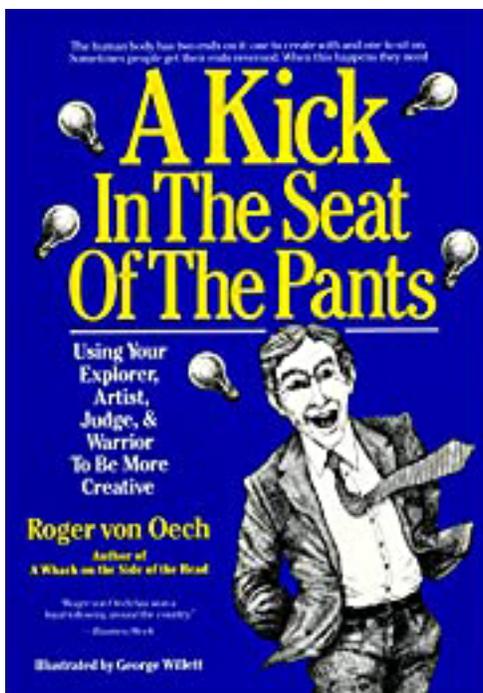
Wintering:

The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times Revised and Expanded Edition

by Katherine May, Riverhead Books, 2020

I love winter but am keenly aware many folks do not. And it can seem a bit long at times even to me. Katherine May, using winter as a metaphor and an actual season when all can seem stark and lonely, has created a read that makes tough times easier to survive.

She shares her personal journey through illness and upheavals; shares stories and examples from life, literature and mythology; and educates her readers about an eclectic range of winter topics — dormice hibernation, swimming in icy water and how bees over winter. This book came on my radar right on time for me; perhaps it will for you too.



This Trio of Resources by Roger von Oech is a perennial favorite of mine when it comes to finding ways to get myself and others thinking creatively. You should be able to find these used, and several have updated versions. While they were designed for those working in Silicon Valley, they can get your juices flowing as a quilt designer too.