

Artist Statement: Claire Passmore

I make art quilts for sheer pleasure; from the moment I have the first idea to putting the last stitch in place I enjoy every step of the journey. Much of the work I make is rooted in social commentary – things about which I have very strong emotions and feelings. I am also curious. I like to explore and experiment with shapes and structures, with no fixed end in mind, just to discover what might be.

My mind buzzes with ideas and thoughts which I try to formalise with samples, scribbled notes, sketches of potential ideas and other collected ephemera. I use the walls of my studio much like the pages in a huge sketchbook or journal. To some they look chaotic, but to me they are the place my thoughts evolve and begin to be transformed into reality.

To create my work I almost always start by hand dyeing or altering fabric. I enjoy the processes of cutting, stitching, and layering fabric, ink, paint, thread and any other interesting materials, allowing the work to evolve and story to unfold.

I am a member of the Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA), the international groups 'Twelve by the Dozen' and 'Six Dames' and the Contemporary Quilt Group of the Quilters Guild of the British Isles. My work is currently exhibited in several exhibitions across Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia. I also enjoy sharing what I have learned, and teach Guilds and groups here in the UK and internationally. In 2015 I wrote my first book, 'Quilting Originals', which aims to help art quilters develop strategies to design and make their own original work.

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