

Bio
Irene Roderick

My quilting activities are a mixture of discovery and elation. I have been an artist for most of my life (my parents gave me a set of oil paints in 3rd grade). I have painted and crafted for over 50 years, mostly in my home raising 4 sons and working in retail and administration. I returned to school at the age of 46, earning a BFA from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts in 2001. I began quilting in 2016 when I retired from my Administrative position at the University of Texas at Austin. I was searching for a new creative endeavor and happened on “modern” quilts when I was googling for a new bed covering. The works of Nancy Crow and Gwen Marsden caught my attention and I wanted to make what they were making. No one in my family quilted or did any kind of handwork so quilting was not something I was familiar with. I took a beginning piecework class at a local quilt store and was hooked. I love making “functional” art. I consider my quilts paintings, using fabric as my medium. Currently I am working in my studio, teaching Zoom workshops and presenting Zoom lectures/trunk shows, and traveling all over the world teaching in-person workshops. I’ve even a book on my signature style of improvisational quilting, *Dancing With The Wall*.

My work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is included in private and museum collections. In 2019, I received the Emerging Artist Award at Quilt National, 2nd place finishes at QuiltCon 2019 in the Improv category and in the 2-Color Challenge Category. I was awarded the first place award in the Improv category at QuiltCon 2020 and a third place at QuiltCon 2023. In 2021, I was awarded a Juror’s Choice Award at the Quilts=Art=Quilts Exhibition at the Schweinfurth Arts Center and the “In The Abstract” award in Visions Museum’s Quilt Visions 2021. Most recently, I received “Best of Show” for the Q=A=Q Exhibition, Schweinfurth Arts Center and the Japan Prize at Visions Museum’s Quilt Interpretations 2022. I have been a juror for Quilt National 2023 and also one of two jurors for Schweinfurth Art Center’s exhibition Q=A=Q 2023.