

The Artesia Quilters Guild has just opened their 7<sup>th</sup> annual show here in the Artesia Historical Museum & Art Annex gallery, which means that from July 17-August 31, 2007 everyone has the chance to check out the latest in fabulous textile creations.

The Artesia Quilters Guild is well-known for combining the traditional art of quilting with such 21<sup>st</sup> century techniques as machine piecing and quilting, photograph transfer & portraiture, and the use of unusual embellishments for detail. Traditional patterns and colors are used as a taking-off point, and from there Guild members have used unexpected color and pattern combinations to create one-of-a-kind works of art. Inspiration for pieces in this year's show came from such varied sources as Bible inscriptions and a vacation photograph. After all, improvisation and imagination are what true quilting is all about—quilters have always used whatever fabric is available, and if the pattern didn't work they created a new one!

This year's show is a mixture of traditional and modern quilts. We have a room of never-before-displayed vintage quilts as well some more modern varieties featuring such themes as the American flag, New Mexico, angels, teapots, and even a birdhouse! Besides quilts for snuggling up under, the show features quilted table runners, place mats, wall hangings, hot pads, and several purses. There are even two examples of photographs that have been transformed into textile art: one of them features an entire quilted landscape made entirely from fabric and based on a photograph; the other features a photograph that has been printed onto fabric and "outlined" in quilting.

Other unusual pieces in this year's show include a stained glass quilted wall hanging and two cathedral window cut-out hangings. There's a fairy tale quilt illustrating "The Swan Princess", and a rag quilt shaped like a big kitten. Other critters featured in this year's show include tropical fish, a lion & lamb, flying zebras, and of course our very own Bulldogs!

But what's really fun is comparing each Guild member's personal variations on Guild-wide projects. The four "Compass Star" pieces in this year's show are all beautiful, and all unique; the same goes for the three "Stack & Whack" quilts. Of course, in a "Crazy Quilt" anything goes, and this year's show has three examples to prove that one!

The Artesia Quilters Guild exhibit will be on display in the Museum's Art Annex gallery through August 31<sup>st</sup> during regular Museum hours: Tuesdays-Fridays 9:00 am-noon & 1:00-5:00 pm; Saturdays 1:00-5:00 pm. Other arrangements can be made by calling the Museum at 748-2390—large groups are encouraged to call ahead.