

*by Joyce Robinson*

# QUILTBLUESKY

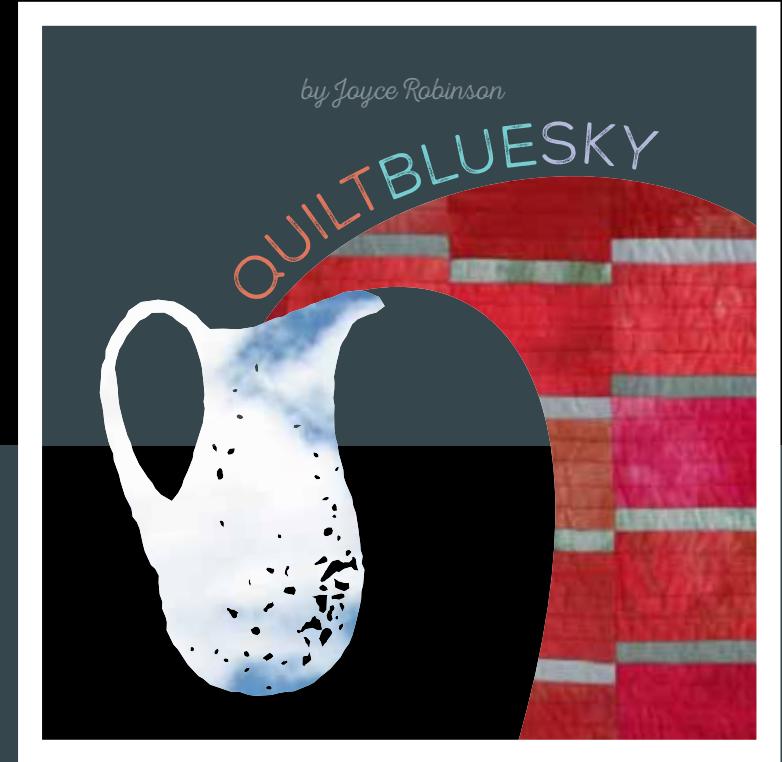
QUILTBLUESKY

*by Joyce Robinson*



*Quilts by Joyce Robinson, Volume 1*

QUILTBLUESKY.COM / JOYCEROBINSON.COM



[QUILTBLUESKY.COM](http://QUILTBLUESKY.COM) / [JOYCEROBINSON.COM](http://JOYCEROBINSON.COM)



QUILTBLUESKY.COM / JOYCEROBINSON.COM

© Joyce Robinson, *Quilt Blue Sky*, Volume 1. All quilts are designed/sewn by Joyce Robinson, contact: joyce@joycerobinson.com, cell 303-898-0116. Quilt photos by Mellisa Karlin Mahoney; location photos, studio photos, landscapes and book design by Joyce Robinson, 2015.





## Colorado

I LOOK TO THE SKY,  
TO THE MOUNTAINS. I FEEL THE FRESH AIR  
AND SUN. I SMILE. I DREAM. AND REPEAT.  
I LET MY CREATIVITY FLOW. NATURE, COLOR,  
PATTERN, FABRIC, TEXTURE, ARTISTIC LOVE . . .  
A QUILT DESIGN IS BORN. — *Joyce Robinson*



QUILTBLUESKY

# ECLIPSE.



Eclipse, 66" x 44", © Joyce Robinson

*Experimenting with a new, circle-cutting tool and auditioning batiks on my design wall were my seeds of inspiration. Very dense, all-over circular quilting adds texture. The circle—so versatile!*





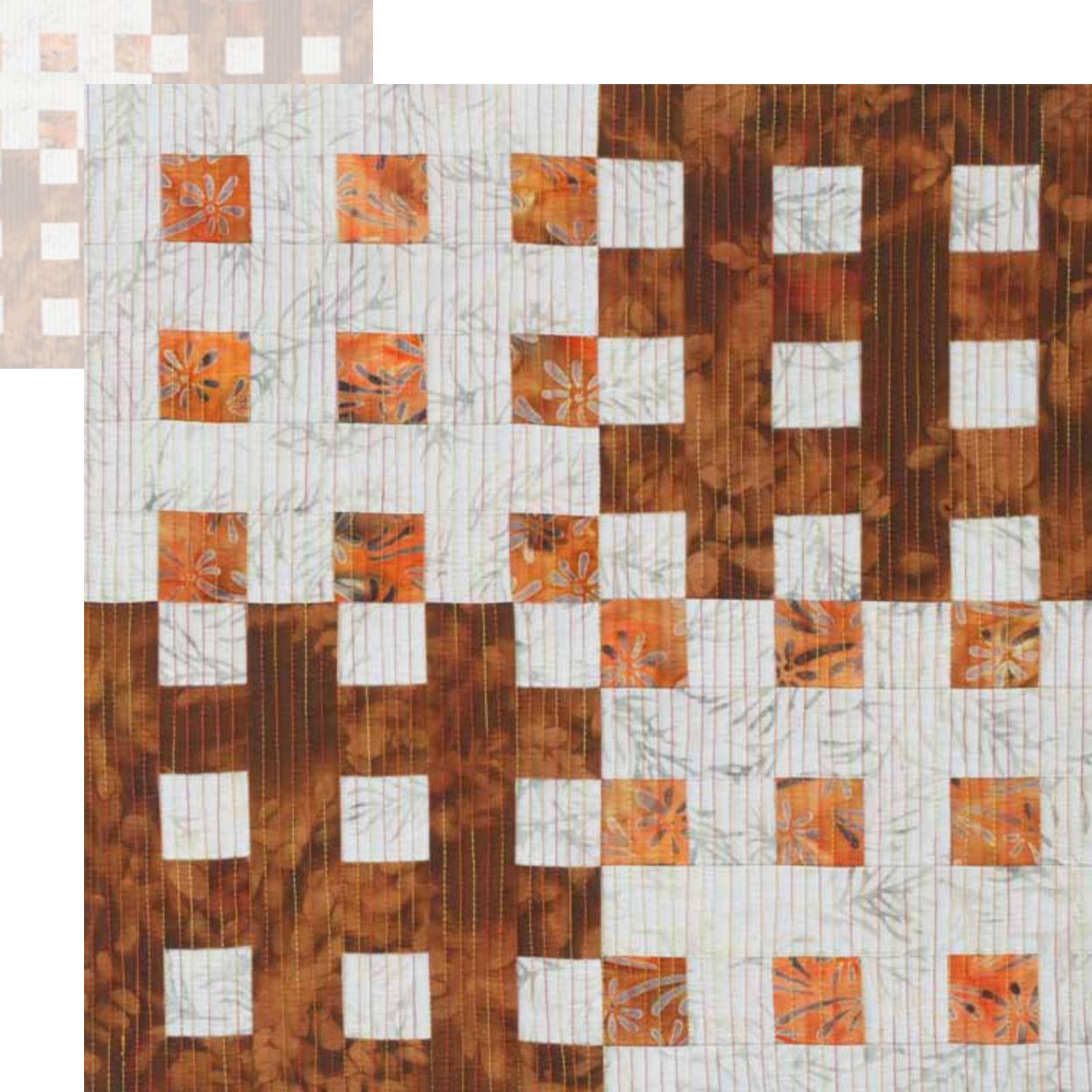
*Made using easy strip-piecing techniques, the contrasting colors and subtle effects of the hand-dyes are what make this quilt amazing. Straight-line quilting adds to the grid.*

## GRAPEFRUIT.

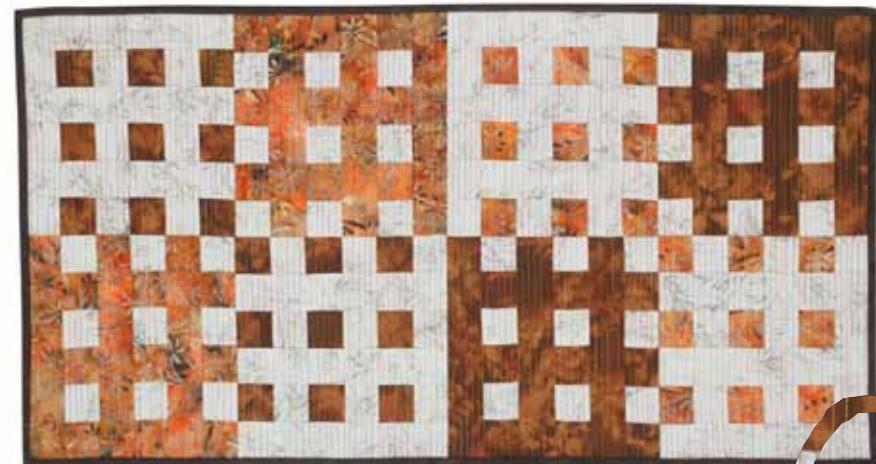


Grapefruit Sea,  
53" x 96",  
© Joyce Robinson





*An architectural vibe is in the neighborhood. New York buildings by day—city lights glowing by night. A crisp light batik does the heavy lifting and tight, straight-line quilting wraps it up. An industrial table would be fitting for this table runner. Double the recipe for a longer table.*



## URBAN.

Urban Table,  
36" x 18",  
© Joyce Robinson





*With drawing skills in tune and an iron on deck, I sketched. I fused...and wow...so artistic. No struggling with the perfect color to go with the other perfect colors...just white! Refreshing, clean and modern—very nice against the medium grey wall.*



Line Drawing: Pitcher, 29" x 62", © Joyce Robinson

## LINE.

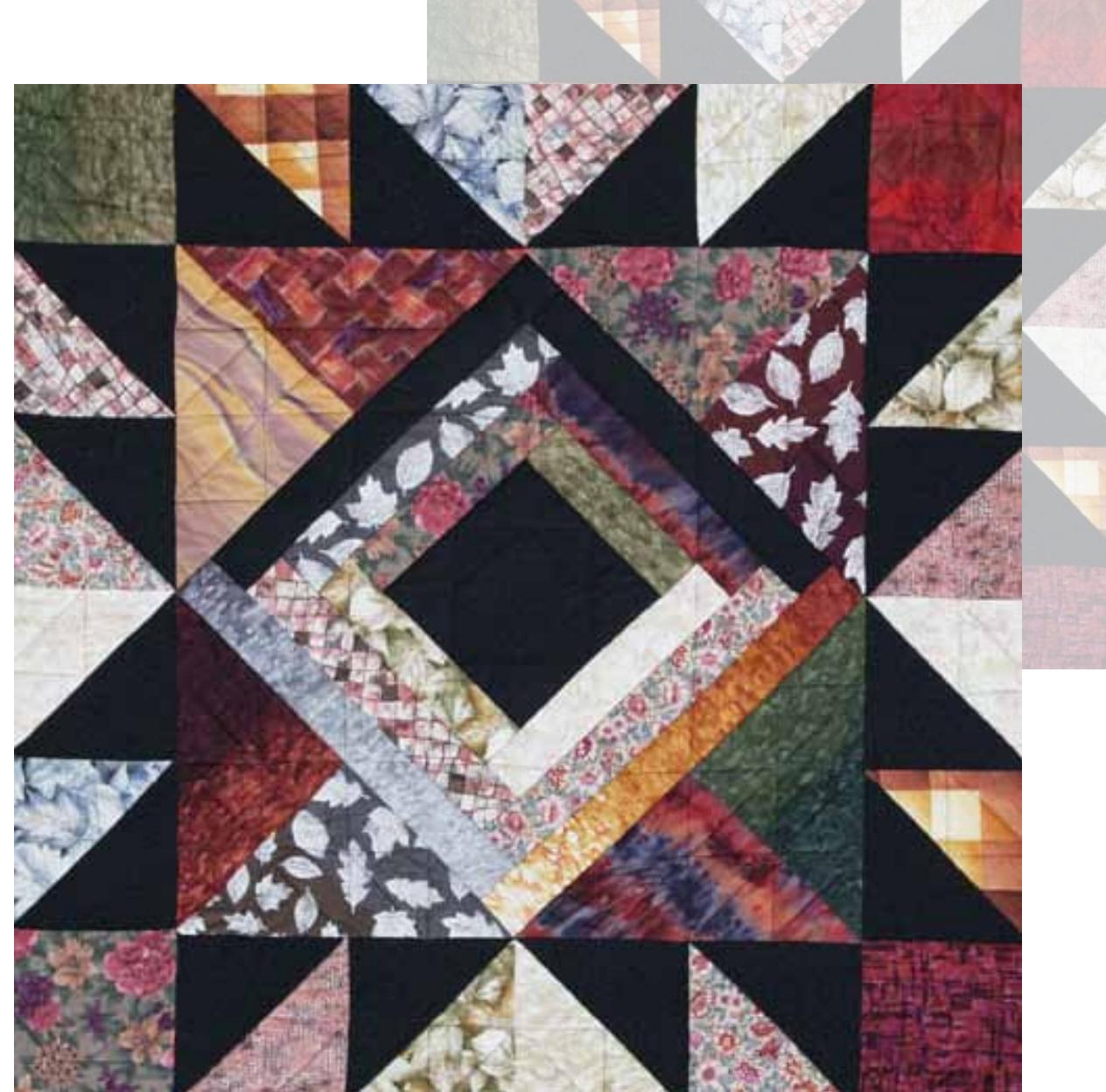


# FIRST.

*The design and creation of my very large first quilt happened with a little help and guidance from my quilt magazine editor friends. Made from recycled scraps and black solid. A combination of traditional quilt blocks: Bear Paw, Log Cabin, and Square in a Square. A viewer's choice award winner.*



Bears in the Woods, 90" x 90", © Joyce Robinson





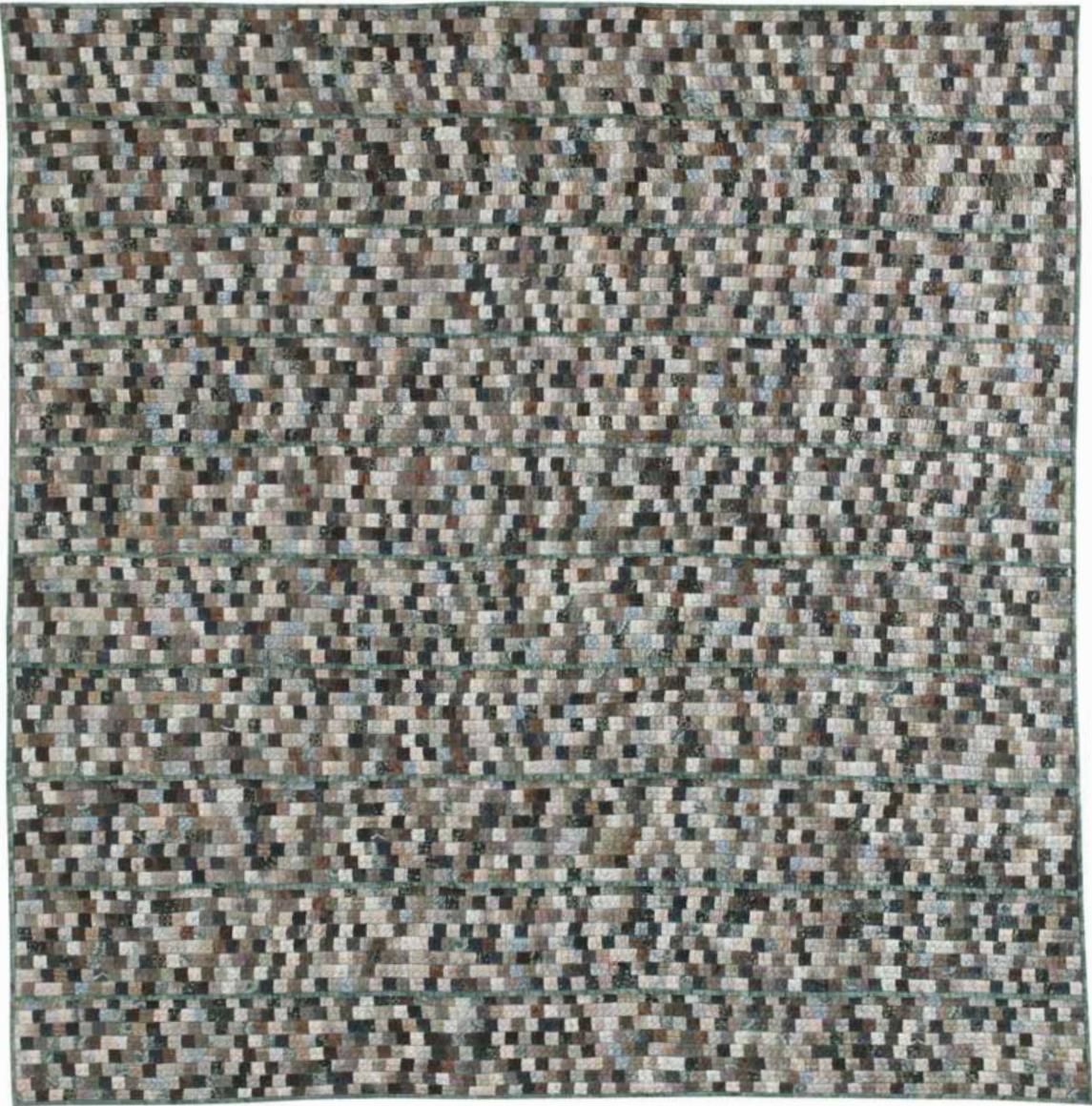
*This became a creative calm in the middle of the flood disaster of September 11, 2013 in Boulder County, Colorado. Jumbled up trees, rock and erosion everywhere. Made of Japanese taupes, it is very heavy because of all the seam allowances. There are 6,400 squares in case you are counting, and a skinny teal piping adds structure. Notice the quilting design... those are water droplets or waves, depending upon your interpretation. I love taupes!*



Mosaic Flood, 80" x 80", © Joyce Robinson; St. Malo church south of Estes Park



# FLOOD.



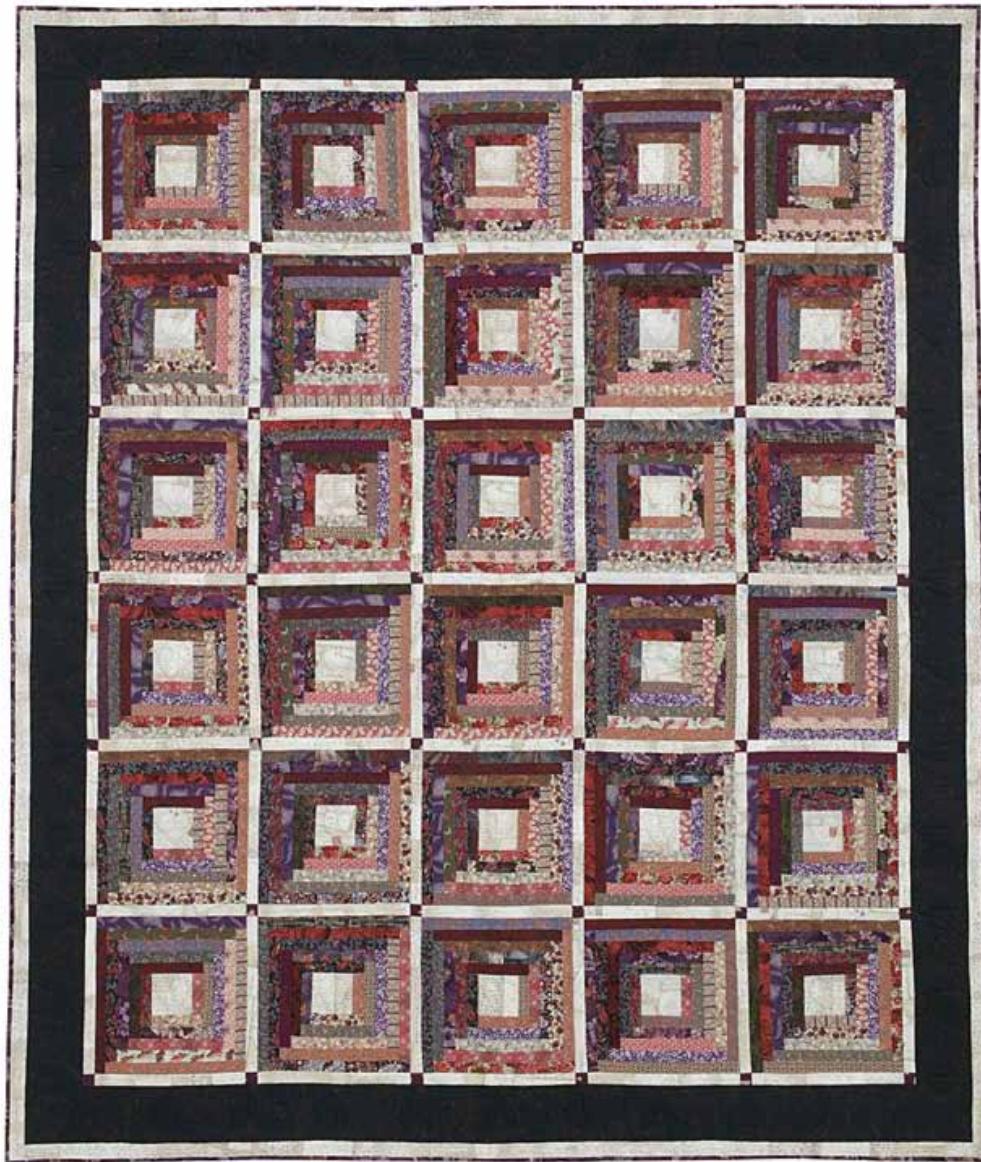


# FREE-MOTION.

*Bright red background batiks are layered with fun green and yellow petals, creating these raw-edge appliqué flowers. Each bloom has unique free-motion stitches.*

Field of Flowers, 45" x 72", © Joyce Robinson





*Favorite prints—sorted into light and dark—team up with easy trapunto to pouf up the hearts in the center of each log cabin block. The placement of the lights and darks allows a 3-dimensional visual effect to happen—nice bonus.*



## LOG CABIN.

Love Letters , 87" x 101",  
© Joyce Robinson

*Every time I show this bright beauty at a guild presentation, it sounds like the Fourth of July with all the oooohs and ahhhhs in the room. I used hand-dyed and batik fabrics, and rayon thread.*



## CONEFLOWERS.

Coneflowers , 51" x 39",  
© Joyce Robinson





*A tropical batik and hand-dyed fabrics—and a trip to Dry Tortugas National Park off the Florida Keys—inspired this off-set art quilt and its sister, a table runner. The curved piecing is artistic and is finished with spiral free-motion quilting.*

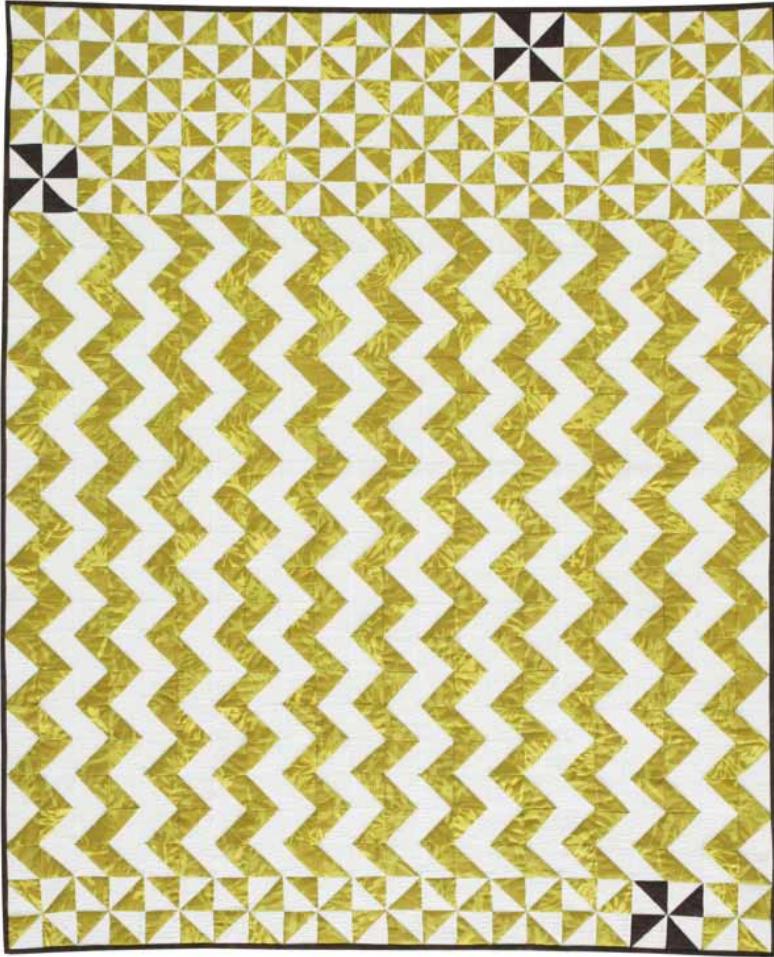


Tropical Vacation, 64" x 64" quilt;  
112" x 16" table runner, © Joyce Robinson



**TROPICAL.**



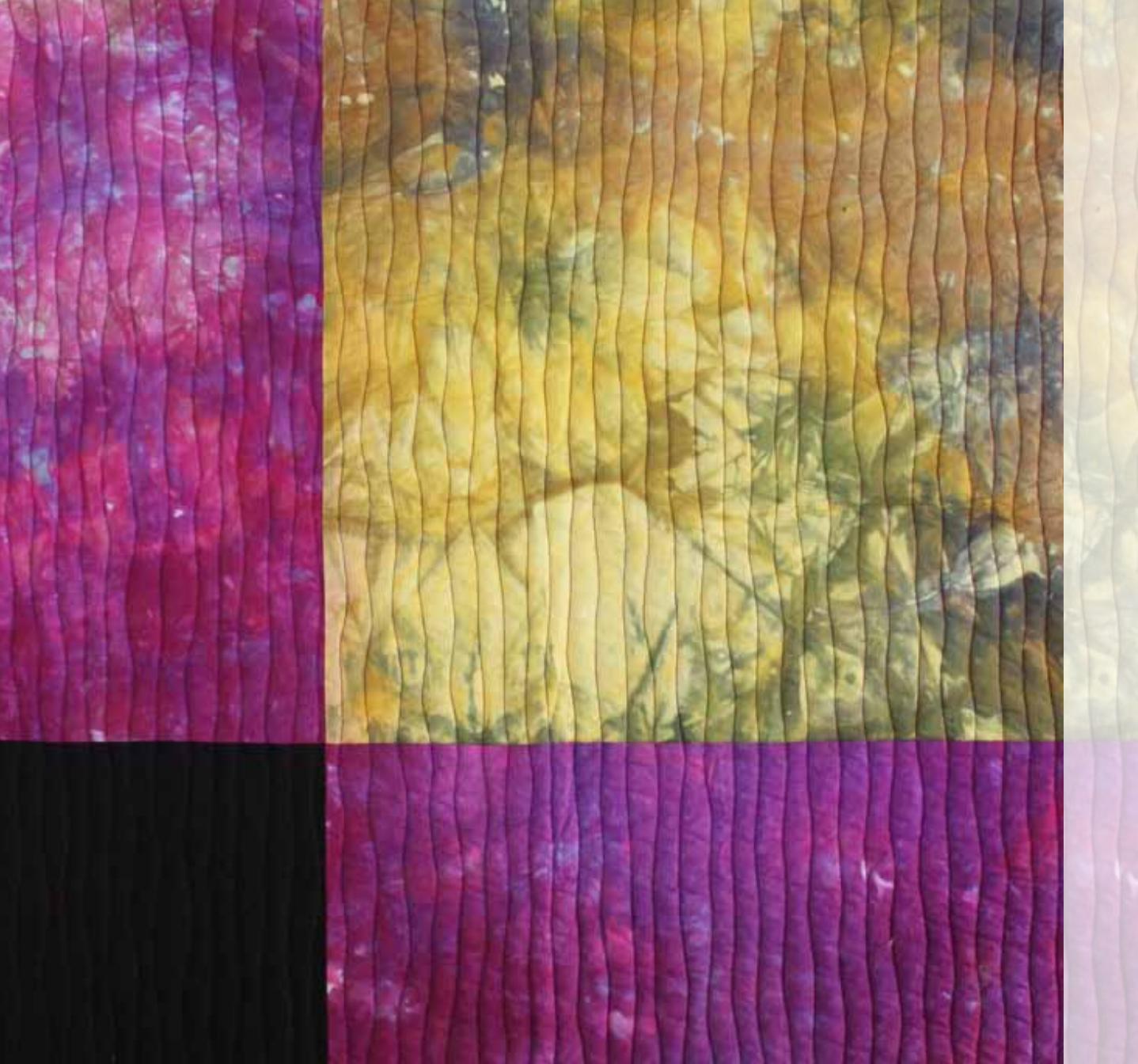


# THREE-PIN.

Three-Pin Ski , 44" x 54", © Joyce Robinson

*An homage to my sweet telemark skiing technique. Made up completely of half-square triangles, and super-easy with loads of other design potential.*





*Say hello to my very first modern quilt. Made years ago, before the modern quilt movement was thriving. Stepping away from tradition, simple, off-center, and allowing the hand-dyed fabrics to take stage. The binding color gets changed in the corner to offer contrast and a little bit of extra artsy.*

## MODERN.



Modern Amish, 30" x 31", © Joyce Robinson



Tulip Patch , 51" x 51", © Joyce Robinson



## APPLIQUÉ.

*A simple patchwork center sets the stage for a whole garden of whimsical, appliquéd tulips. Full of batiks and quilted with rayon and variegated threads. This is an ideal quilt to teach in a beginner class—a little bit of piecing, a little bit of appliqué, and not too big.*



*Flying geese pairs (a positive and a negative) were swapped in a 10-person block exchange. Then the blocks were arranged to blend in watercolor fashion, yellow in the middle blending out to green at the edges. A folded border adds dimension.*



Flying Geese Exchange , 58" x 58", © Joyce Robinson



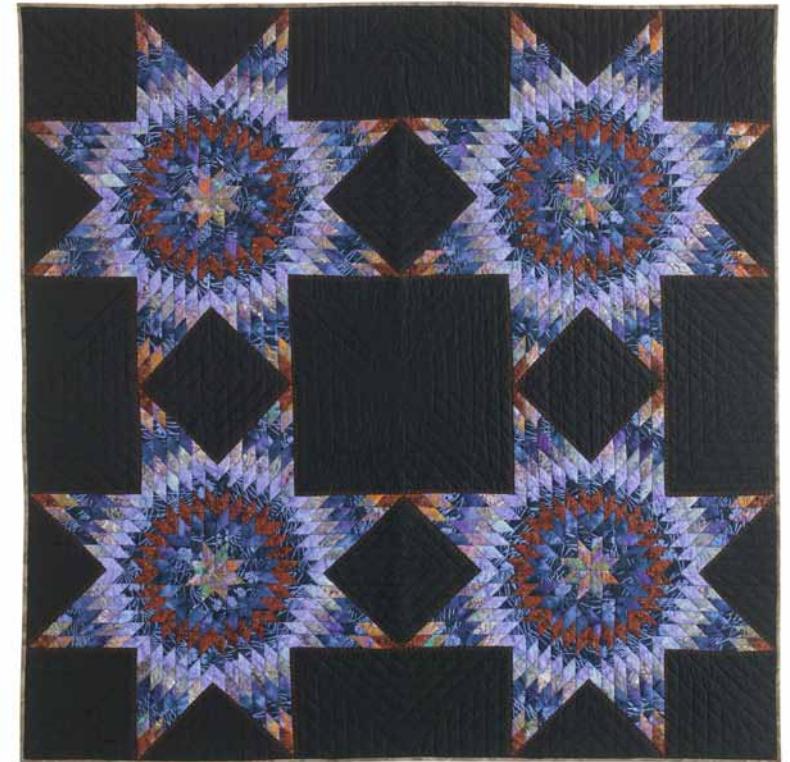
# GEESE.





*I love the radiating, electric effect that this Lone Star design produces. I added that little something extra by using a scallop stitch around each star in a rusty brown thread. It took a while, but it finally got finished!*

Carolina Lonestar ,  
73" x 73",  
© Joyce Robinson



# LONE STAR.





Copper Trellis , 79" x 79", © Joyce Robinson; copper table by Don Robinson



## COPPER.

*One look at this star black-and-white, floral print and I was in love. A marquee dances around each flower block and border. The copper squares remind me of my dad's hand-crafted tables which have little copper tiles on the top.*





# LANDSCAPE.



Hand-dyed Landscape , 44" x 39", © Joyce Robinson



17

*This is one of my first art quilts. The fabric is custom-dyed and a simple strippie setting lets the ombre blend stay together.*



*A soft palette of blues, greens, and neutrals contrast with polka dot and chocolate browns in this vertical wall quilt. It can be counted on to use batiks and here even basic rectangles become artistic and mysterious.*



# PASSAGE.

Secret Passage, 25" x 54", © Joyce Robinson





# FEATHERED.

Wild Feathered Star, 77" x 77",  
© Joyce Robinson

*This feathered star block is the most difficult I've ever designed and sewn. There are loads of insets and tiny patches. I wanted to prove I could do it! It took a while, but it was worth it. I've always admired this traditional block and creating a secondary design with a second star was the topper.*



Left: Olivia's Garden,  
28" x 28", © Joyce Robinson

Right: Four Vases for Lillian,  
28" x 28", © Joyce Robinson



## GRANDMOTHERS.

*Hand-dyed wool is beautiful and easy to work with. The garden is bright, and all the leaves are organic. The vase design mixes up each flower arrangement. All the appliqué is done by machine using a buttonhole stitch in black thread. It looks like it might be sewn by hand and people always ask! I honor my grandmothers with these stitches.*



SPA.



*I am officially embracing the rectangle!  
This was my first experiment using  
trendy, large-scale prints. They sure do  
rule and blur the edges, but for me it is  
in a good way. The quilting looks like a  
kid's scribbling and gives a modern look.*

Garden Spa, 66" x 83", © Joyce Robinson





FRESH.



Fresh Cut Flowers, 15" x 34", © Joyce Robinson

*I love having fresh-cut flowers in the house. This tulip bouquet is displayed in a "glass" bottle and rayon zig zags accent each stem. The loose yellow quilting steps outside of the boundaries.*



# EXCHANGE.

Nine-Patch  
Exchange,  
74" x 74",  
© Joyce  
Robinson



*A group of 20 exchanged blocks  
10 different times creating the  
nine-patch centers of this scrappy  
traditional quilt. What a display!*





*I started jumping with joy at the office when I found out that this design was going to be on the cover of a favorite quilting magazine. I fussy-cut a small flower for the center of each square-in-a-square block. Careful with all of your purples—check to make sure they are colorfast.*



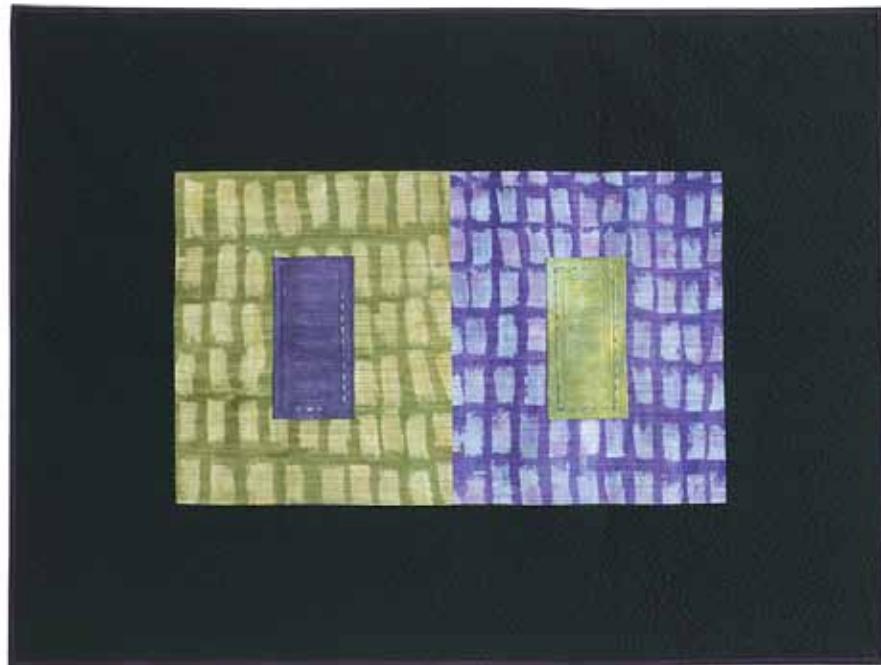
Flower in a Square, 93" x 93", © Joyce Robinson

**SQUARE.**



# HAND-DYED.

Color Study: Rectangle, 50" x 35", © Joyce Robinson



25

*The combination of a hand-dye class and my longarm sewing machine inspired me to create this color study. There is big stitch embroidery in the center rectangles and the black border is pebble-stitch quilted.*

Big Blooms, 15" x 37",  
© Joyce Robinson

# BLOOM.



*Nothing like a blizzard—and a power outage—in the neighborhood to help kick creativity in gear. I picked fabrics and then did the cutting while the sun was shining and the woodstove was burning. My plan was raw-edge appliqué; after all, my iron was also out of commission.*

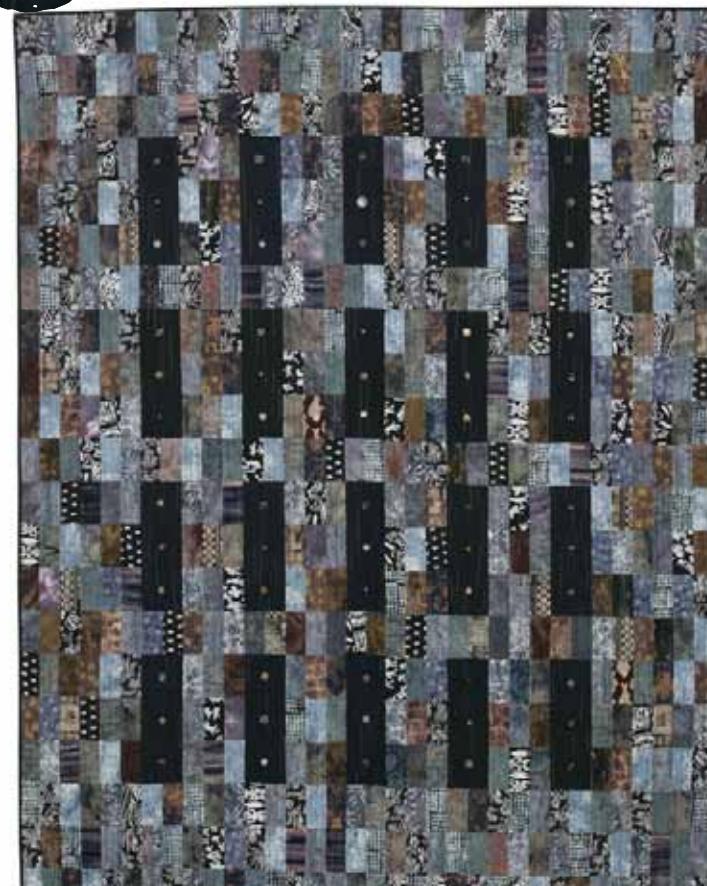




# BUTTON.

Antique Button Bazaar,  
80" x 96", © Joyce Robinson

*Neutrals and grey batiks from my fabric stash surround larger solid black rectangles that have an extra sparkle—three metal vintage buttons each. A juried exhibition and tour around the world are on this quilt's show resume.*



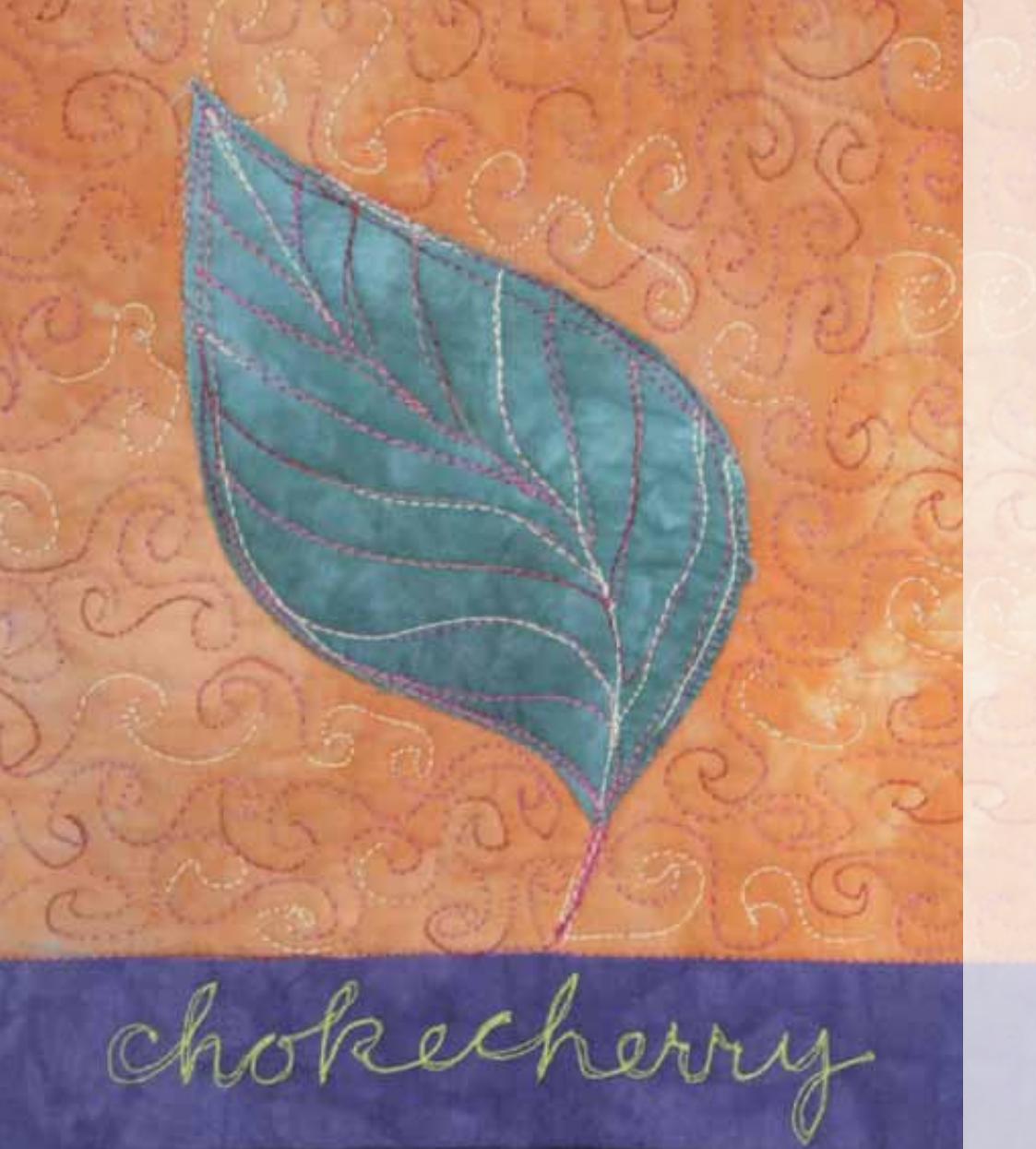


*This very vertical, strip-pieced wall quilt hangs in my living room, adding just the right flavor to the room. Made from Japanese taupe fabrics and finished with a free-motion starburst design.*

**TAUPE.**

Taupe Hope, 30" x 61",  
© Joyce Robinson





Hand-dyed fabrics come to life against the black solid. Leaves and their organic shapes are favorite design inspirations for me. For the quilting, I used variegated thread that blends with the background color in each block. The botanical name is quilted under each leaf for that added something special. This wall quilt is well-traveled and has been around the world, too.



Botany 101, 30" x 39", © Joyce Robinson

**BOTANY.**



*I combined pink leaves on green and then the reverse, green leaves on pink. The fabrics create a shimmering effect in this medallion-style design. I quilted more leaves in the open blocks and added quilted veins. Spirals fill in the background and there's a cool label on the back.*

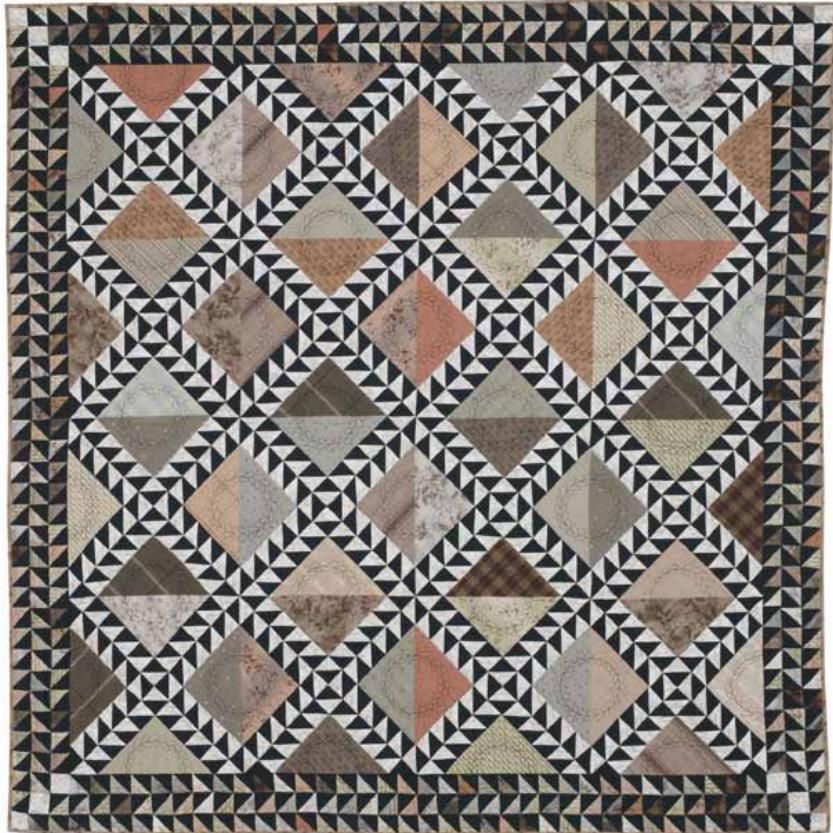
Magnolia Maze, 84" x 84", © Joyce Robinson



**MAGNOLIA.**



30



Palace Floor,  
80" x 80",  
© Joyce  
Robinson

*I stopped at my local quilt shop and ran across new packets of earthy weaves and prints—Japanese taupe fabrics. At first I was unsure, but soon my love affair with taupes was firm. There is motion in the pieced border.*

**PALACE.**





*Fruit is a traditional subject for painters and artists—and now quilt artists. This pays homage to my mom, who painted many still lifes when I was young. The pear has a wonderful shape.*

Pear Still Life, 44" x 37", © Joyce Robinson



**STILL LIFE.**

# ASPEN.

*Yes, square leaves are quaking on my aspen trees. I had been dreaming of this quilt for years and an artistic challenge for local artists kicked off my creative start. Discharge-dyed black for the tree trunks and a suede-like, burgundy wine-colored background are key.*

Aspen, 39" x 51",  
© Joyce Robinson



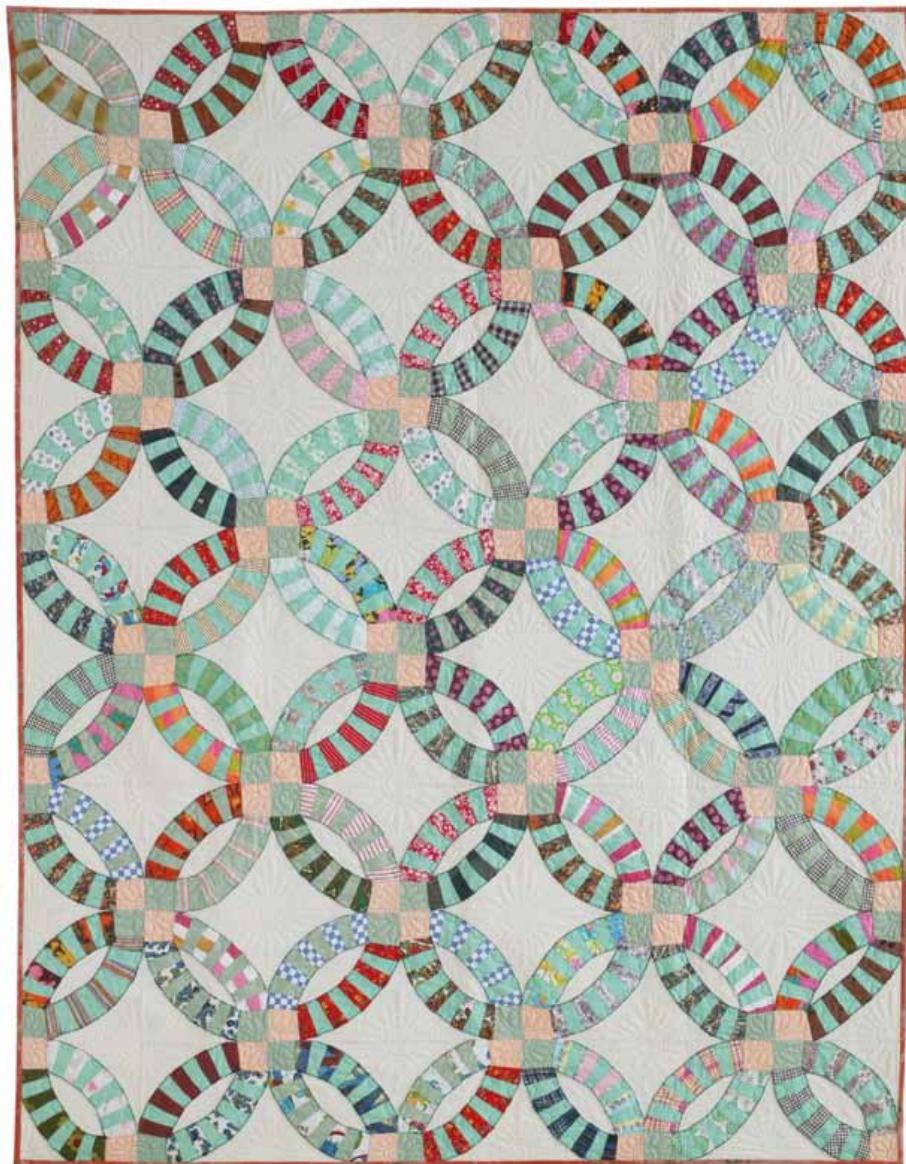


*Snow and fall, two of my favorite things about living in Colorado. Each hand-dyed wool snowflake is machine-blanket stitched. Vintage buttons in the centers add charm.*



## SNOW FALL.

Snow Fall, 60" x 60", © Joyce Robinson



## NEW VINTAGE.

Sixties Wedding, 68" x 88",  
© Joyce Robinson

*I bought this wedding ring unfinished top at an antique store in Colorado. I needed longarm practice. It was in pretty rough shape and on the machine, the quilt was shrinking and stretching. Technical difficulties I thought. Well, cut to the end—the quilt came off the longarm perfectly flat and wonderful. I'm still not in love with the black zig-zag stitches on the appliqué rings, but I honor the unknown original quiltmaker by leaving them intact.*



# BURST.

Burst of Sunshine,  
34" x 33",  
© Joyce Robinson



*Inspired by a trip to Santa Fe, this is a shout out to Georgia O'Keefe—in a quilterly way. A unique chain batik from China is used for the background.*

*The beach. It is the thing I miss most living in Colorado. So to refresh the memory of salt water, the waves and Stella my lovable Labradoodle's first swim, I designed this modern and beachy quilt. I die-cut the circles. Dense, pebble stitching finishes it off. Thank you, Kure Beach!*



## BEACH GLASS.

Beach Glass,  
60 x 60,  
© Joyce Robinson



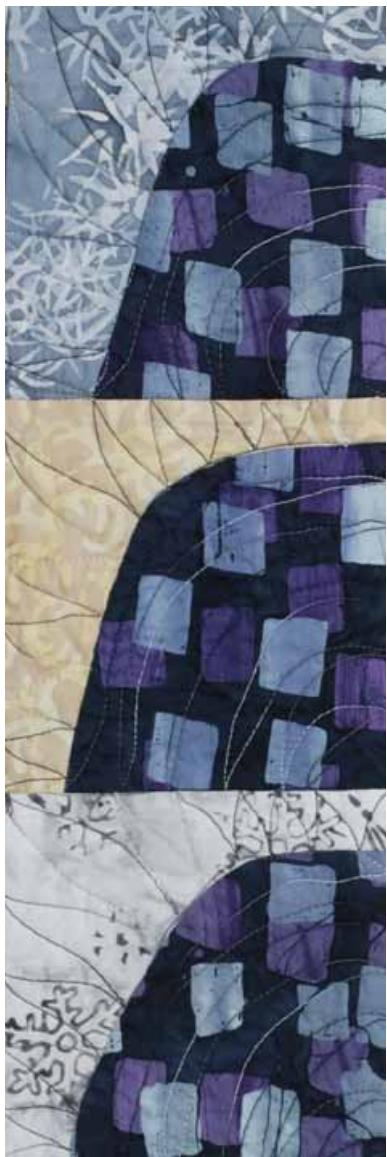


*This color-study is fused appliqué with hand-dyes and free-motion machine quilting. I wanted to paint with the fabric. An award-winning little beauty.*

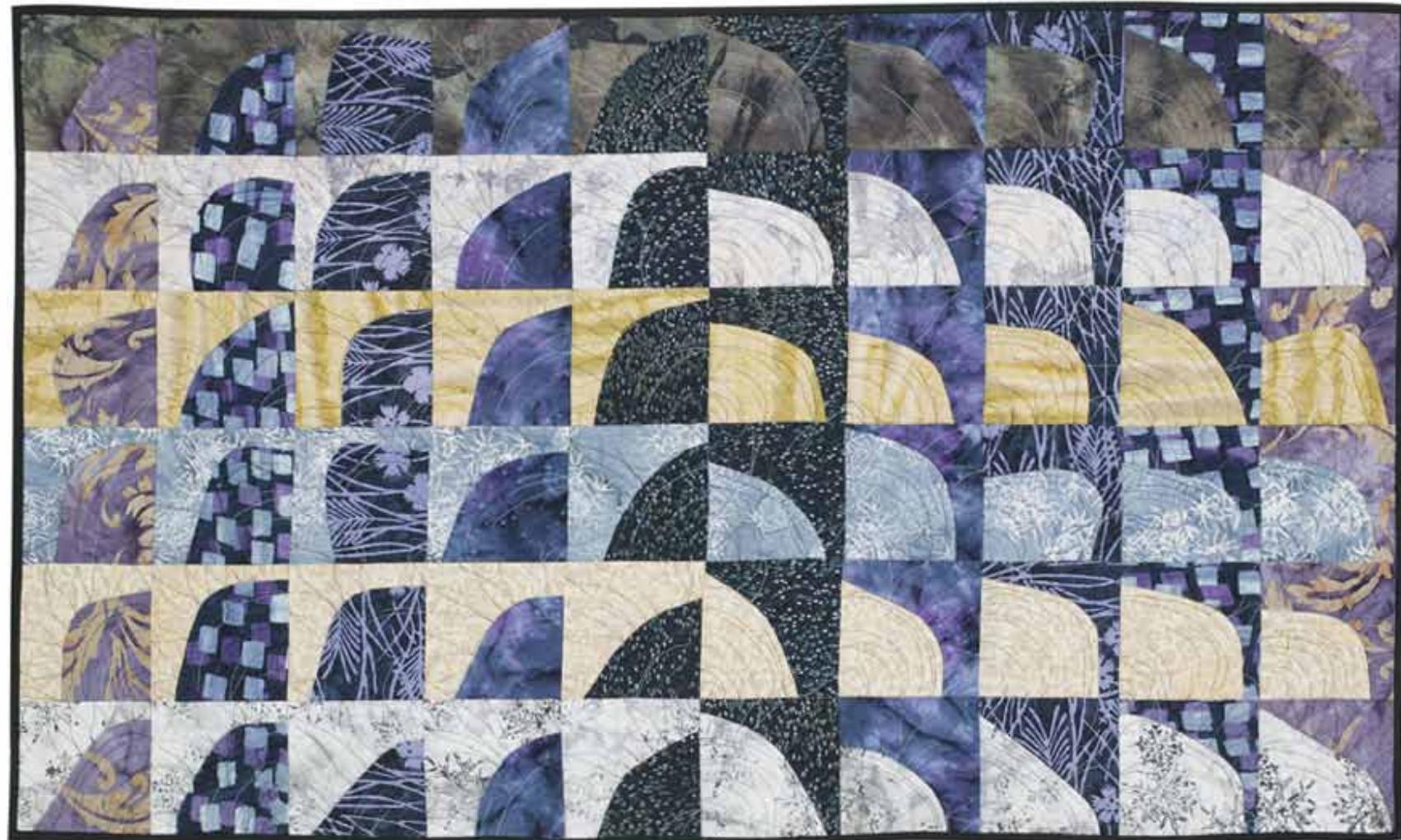


**FLOW.**

Like Paint, 18" x 23", © Joyce Robinson



*I love the way this progression looks like a moon and sun chart. Paired positive and negative blocks reflect across.*



# PROGRESSION.

Planetary Progression, 55" x 33", © Joyce Robinson



## CURVES.

*Running Water is a study in machine piecing curves that I designed after taking a workshop.*



Running Water, 12" x 35",  
© Joyce Robinson





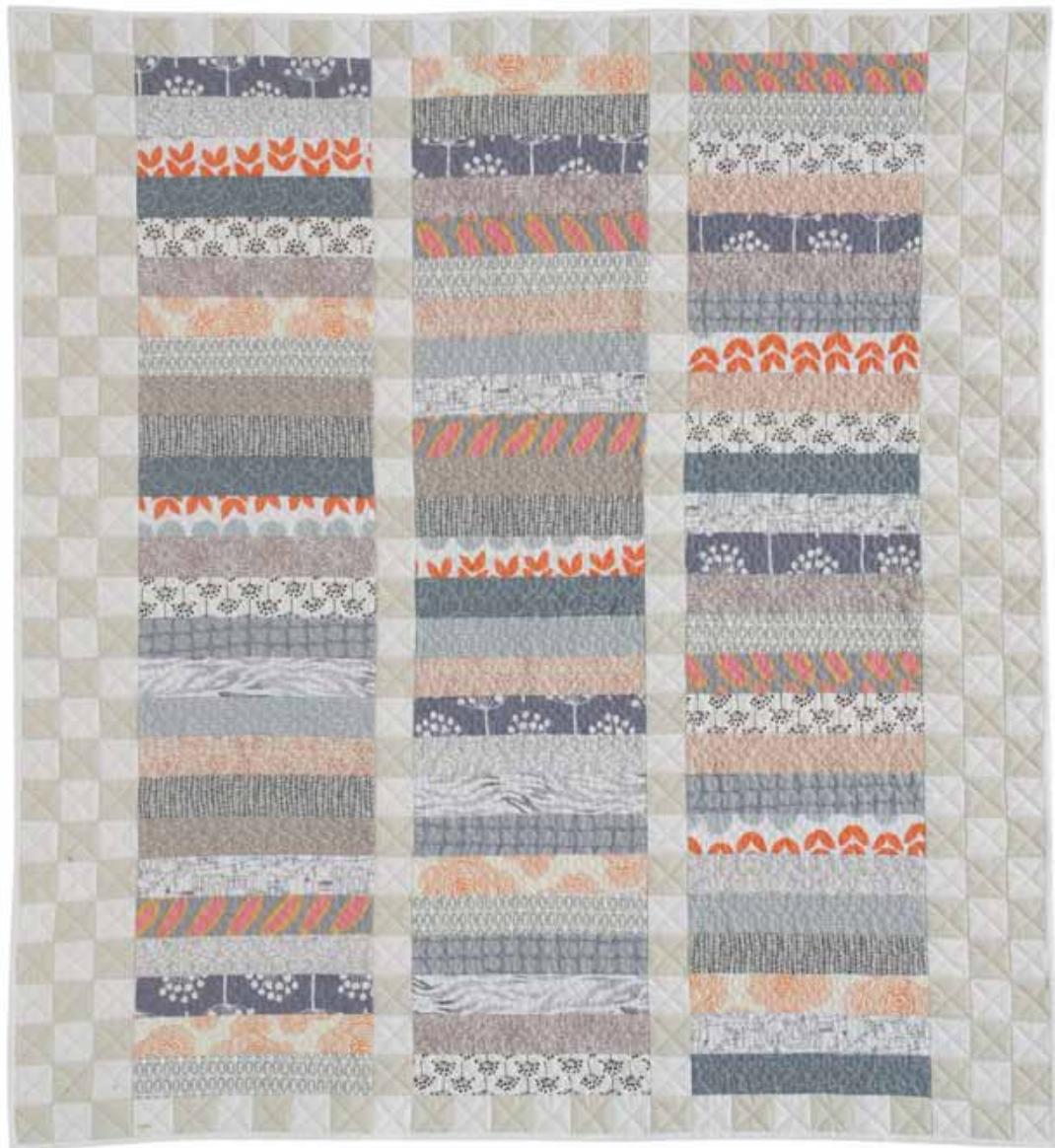
# MOUNTAINS.



*A splash of bright red decorates the trees in Mountain Holiday. I was inspired by a vintage quilt where the trees were set straight in rows.*

Mountain Holiday,  
78" x 78",  
© Joyce Robinson





## BABY.

*Time for the rocking chair and a sweet baby to hold. Modern prints welcome a new little one to the world. And then another baby of sorts came along—I used the leftovers to make a quiltlet to use for changing.*



42

Modern Baby, quilt 52" x 56",  
quiltlet 34" x 16", © Joyce Robinson





Mornin' Sunshine, 29" x 27",  
© Joyce Robinson, metal art  
by my brother Alan Robinson



# SUNSHINE.

*My 90-plus-year-old neighbor used to call me a lot and his usual greeting was "mornin' sunshine". I miss him. The spiral sun design became my logo. I fused and blanket-stitched the edges.*

Tribute to  
Bluegrass,  
50" x 46",  
© Joyce  
Robinson



# BLUEGRASS.

*The hand-dyed background fabric really sets the stage. This tribute honors bluegrass and acoustic music. A crowd favorite.*





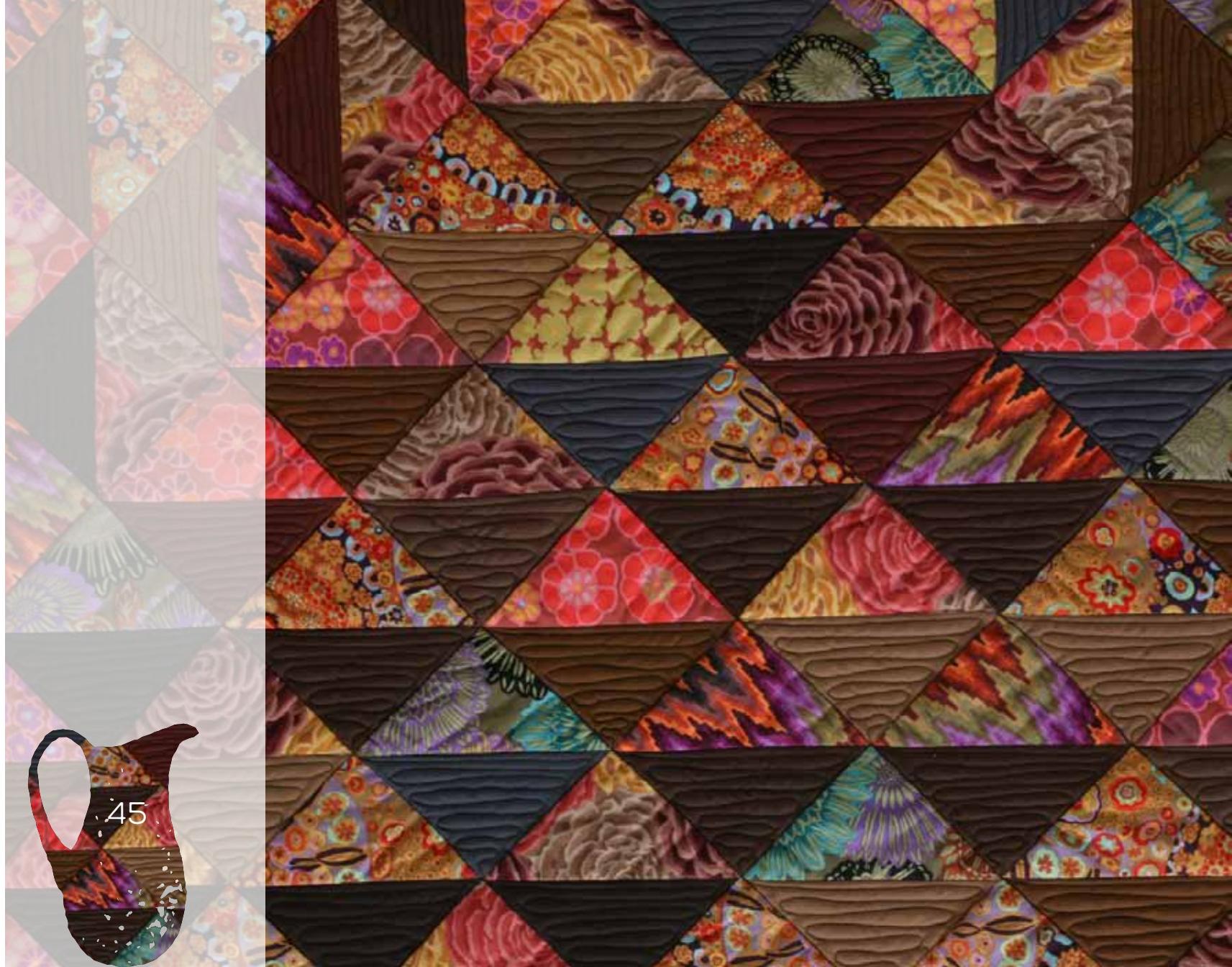
Barnwood  
Blooms,  
64" x 89",  
© Joyce  
Robinson

# BARNWOOD.

*Large-scale modern prints, earthy solids, wood-grain textured quilting—  
that's a good combination! The quilt setting is inspired by an antique quilt  
made in black and white. I love barnwood!*

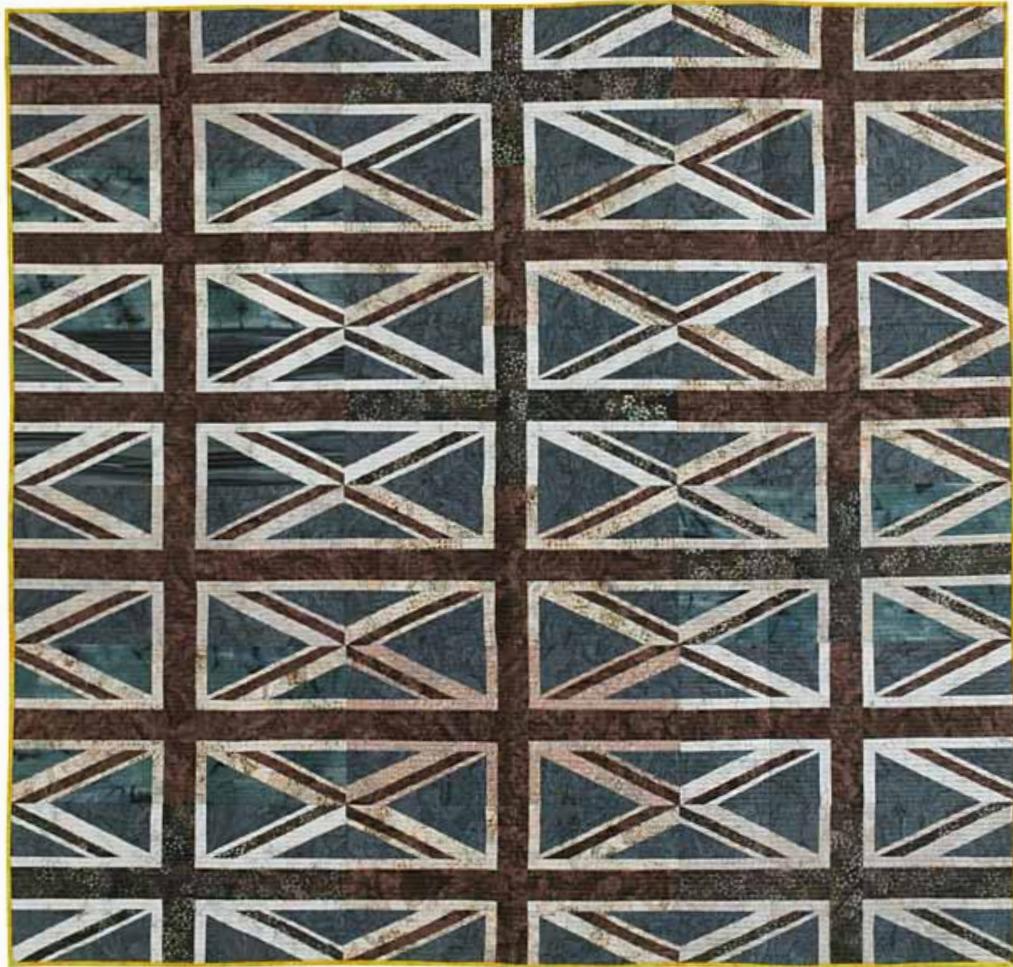


45



*I always admired the Union Jack flag. Then royal fever hit me during the Olympics and another quilt was born. I used muted red, white and blue colors, hoping for a vintage look.*

His Royal Union Jack, 66" x 66", © Joyce Robinson



ROYAL.





Quilted Bowls,  
© Joyce Robinson



## QUILTED BOWLS.



*With a vision of hand-made pottery in my head, I designed these quilted bowls so that the thread lines look like thrown vessels. Everyone wants to know what's inside. There is a special secret ingredient in the recipe!*

- |    |                       |    |                        |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Eclipse               | 17 | Hand-dyed Landscape    | 33 | Aspen                 |
| 2  | Grapefruit Sea        | 18 | Secret Passage         | 34 | Snow Fall             |
| 3  | Urban Table           | 19 | Wild Feathered Star    | 35 | Sixties Wedding       |
| 4  | Line Drawing: Pitcher | 20 | Olivia / Lillian       | 36 | Burst of Sunshine     |
| 5  | Bears in the Woods    | 21 | Garden Spa             | 37 | Beach Glass           |
| 6  | Mosaic Flood          | 22 | Fresh Cut Flowers      | 38 | Like Paint            |
| 7  | Field of Flowers      | 23 | Nine-Patch Exchange    | 39 | Planetary Progression |
| 8  | Love Letters          | 24 | Flower in a Square     | 40 | Running Water         |
| 9  | Coneflowers           | 25 | Color Study: Rectangle | 41 | Mountain Holiday      |
| 10 | Tropical Vacation     | 26 | Big Blooms             | 42 | Modern Baby           |
| 11 | Three-Pin Ski         | 27 | Antique Button Bazaar  | 43 | Mornin' Sunshine      |
| 12 | Modern Amish          | 28 | Taupe Hope             | 44 | Tribute to Bluegrass  |
| 13 | Tulip Patch           | 29 | Botany 101             | 45 | Barnwood Blooms       |
| 14 | Flying Geese Exchange | 30 | Magnolia Maze          | 46 | His Royal Union Jack  |
| 15 | Carolina Lonestar     | 31 | Palace Floor           | 47 | Quilted Bowls         |
| 16 | Copper Trellis        | 32 | Still Life: Pears      |    |                       |



# QUILTBLUESKY

*by Joyce Robinson*