

Bio

Irene Roderick

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



Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is included in private and museum collections. In 2019, she 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. She was awarded the first place award in the Improv category at QuiltCon 2020 and 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, she received "Best of Show" for the Q=A=Q Exhibition, Schweinfurth Arts

Center and the Japan Prize at Visions Museum's Quilt Interpretations 2022. She has been a juror for Quilt National 2023 and one of two jurors for Schweinfurth Art Center's exhibition Q=A=Q 2023.