



# Artist Musings ~ Fiber Fusings

A Newsletter About All Things Fiber for All Fiber Lovers

Volume One

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November 2020

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With the book illustrations completed, my little drawing corner is quite. Needs a little clean-up then I'll be ready for the start of **The Tomte's Alphabet**.

## Greetings!

The days grow shorter and darker. This is the time of year that I am usually fighting bouts of depression. This year was a bit different because I was greeted by my tomte friends when I entered my studio (actually with a walk up the stairs. The whole upstairs is mine!!!!)

They are such happy little beings! Now that the first book is done, I am anxious to get started on the second book so I can hang out with the tomtes again.

## What's Happening in My Studio

Right now I need to do some catch up on housekeeping. When I look around, it seems daunting. We are still unpacking boxes and rearranging stuff from our move a year ago! I'm using a trick I learned from a friend ~ I have taken the time to write each task that needs attention on a colored slip of paper and put the slips in to a lovely crystal bowl. Each morning I pull out a task and do it! Then I pull out the next. One color is for studio work, one for housework, one for book related tasks and one for holiday crafting/sewing. I don't have to sweat over how I am going to get everything done and pretty soon, one task at a time, all is done!

Remember that this newsletter is meant to share ideas so if you have anything you would like to share, please let me know.

## Meet the Artist ~ Kathryn Kerr

I first became acquainted with Kathryn Kerr when I saw a Facebook photo of the quilt to the left called Aves. It was a block of the week program and I signed up! It was a fascinating quilt to watch develop in so many colorways from participants. It is on my bucket list to do one day. I also signed up for two of her other block of the week clubs. I will let Kathryn tell you about her work in her own words! If you love piecing, I recommend looking into her work and her website: [kathrynkerr.com](http://kathrynkerr.com)



Let me introduce myself: I'm Kathryn Kerr, a patchwork designer and textile artist living in the tropics in beautiful Queensland, Australia. I've been sewing since I could hold a needle, making my own clothes, soft furnishings, formal wear and my wedding dress ... until I discovered patchwork and quilting about 25 years ago. Now I hardly ever make clothes!



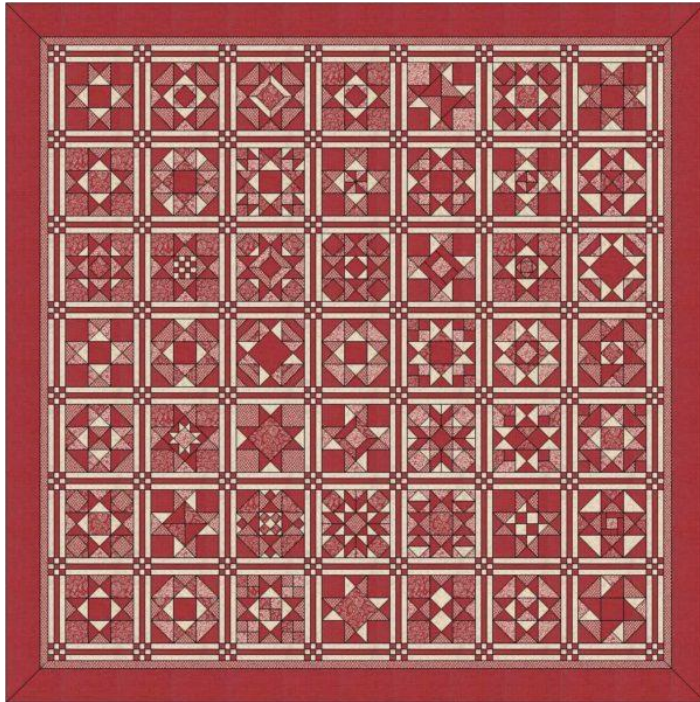
In 2015, I had an idea for a challenge quilt for my local groups of friends. It was simple: make a quilt block every day for a year to build a sampler quilt. I thought maybe a dozen people would make the quilt. I created a Facebook page ... and next thing I knew, quilters from all over the world were interested in my quilt! The 365 Challenge Quilt was born! There are over 30,000 subscribers now ... and the list is still growing.

The truly magical part of the 365 Challenge was working on a project with like-minded people, learning as we go, sharing our ups and downs, and making amazing friends from all over the world. In



2017, I was privileged to travel to Birmingham, England and Bergamo, Italy to meet some of those friends, and see 365 Challenge Quilts made by others.

The success of the 365 Challenge gave me the courage to design more quilts and send my patchwork patterns out into the world. My site [kathrynkerr.com](http://kathrynkerr.com) is that dream come true, where I endeavor to put together block-of-the-week projects which recapture the magic of the 365 Challenge. My catch cry is Make Quilts, Make Friends.



My first project after the 365 Challenge Quilt was a Etoiles Rouges, an exploration of the variations of the classic Ohio Star block and in 2018 I released Aves, another sampler quilt, celebrating the birds, domestic and wild, using blocks only named for our feathered friends. Today, I am drafting patterns for another 365 Challenge Quilt with blocks celebrating the stars and all things heavenly. It will be my most Challenger project to date, and I hope to have it ready in July 2021.

My journey as an artist has been much more stop/start. I dabbled in photography in the early '90s, only to find my time increasingly consumed by my 'real' job as an analytical chemist over the next decade. My next opportunity to return to art manifested as beginning a Diploma of Visual Arts in 2003 at the local TAFE (technical college). It was such a joy to learn the basics of drawing and painting, and dip into cultural studies and art appreciation – subjects I'd never broached at school with my head in maths and science books.

But, it's always about the fabric for me! Over the years I've explored eco-dying with Glenys Mann and India Flint, learnt art-quilting techniques from fellow Australians: Gloria Loughman, Caroline Sharkey, Catherine O'Leary and Jenny Bowker. Last year, I finally gave in and gave over completely to the creative pull by enrolling in a



Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Textiles at the University for the Creative Arts in the UK.  
You're welcome to follow my textile studies, and other artistic meanderings at  
[kathrynkerr.art](http://kathrynkerr.art)

## Pumpkin~Pecan~Chocolate Granola

I love the combination of pumpkin and chocolate.  
Here is an easy recipe that is gluten and sugar free!

### Ingredients

3 cups old fashioned rolled oats (gluten free)  
1½ cups pecans chopped (I used pepitas instead)  
¼ cup pumpkin puree  
½ tsp vanilla  
½ tsp pumpkin pie spice  
½ cup maple syrup  
1/3 cup coconut oil, melted  
½ tsp sea salt  
1/3 cup vegan chocolate chips



### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients except

the chocolate. Spread mixture evenly over parchment paper. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes. Stirring every 15 minutes. You will want the mixture to look dried out. Once you remove from oven, sprinkle the chocolate chips over hot mixture. Let sit until the chocolate set up. Once the chocolate is set, stir every 30 to 45 minutes until granola is no longer sticky. Store in air tight container.



# Upcoming Classes and Clubs

## In the Bag Club

This club features bags and things you put in bags to make them more functional. Each month offers a new technique and pattern. There are two ways to join.

1) Basic Membership ~ **\$35.00** per year.

You will receive one pattern each month (except December) and will be able to participate in a virtual Zoom meeting to see demos and get to know other members of the club.

***Your membership lasts for one year from when you begin the club.  
20% discount on kit of the month.***

2) Membership Plus ~ **\$50.00** per year.

You will receive all of benefits of basic membership plus access to demos on demand so you can refer to demos when you are working on your project.

***Membership lasts for one year from when you begin the club.  
20 % discount on kits of the month.***

Upcoming bags will include:

\* **November ~ Tote in A Tote (Shopping Tote)**

just in time for Holiday shopping (well maybe not this year). This tote has a nice size compartment for regular carrying, then it has a BIG compartment when the shopping gets serious. If shopping isn't in your future, you can use this great bag for a fabulous overnight bag.

\* **January ~ Inside Treasures**

A few small projects for items you put in your purse! One project works with a metal snap frame. The other project incorporates crumb piecing. Both quick and easy.

## Announcing ~ Mixed Media Club

This club will start in January. Each month we will learn a technique that can be used for putting words on quilts. Printing, stamping in new ways, using all different sorts of markers, investigating different lettering styles, using color for highlights, using lettering as backgrounds, quick applique, using resists, stenciling, composition styles for quilts with sayings, etc.

This class will use easily found supplies or I will have them available for you.

We will meet once a month via Zoom. For part of the meeting there will be a demo, then we will spend time working on the ideas together. At the next Zoom meeting we will start with show and tell on work done during the month. Then we'll move onto the next technique.

Supply list will be sent at least two weeks prior to the meeting so you will be ready to play at our meeting.

**Cost will be \$35.00 for 2021 ~ 11 meetings in the year (No December meeting)**

# November Project ~ Tote In A Tote

Our “In the Bag Club” is using Robert Kauffman's luscious Gustaf Klimt fabrics.



The tote above measures 13" x 16" with two decorative pockets. A bargello design on the outside and a scrap pocket on the inside. The photo on the left, is a mesh bag attached at the bottom. It measures 21" x 25" ~ big enough for lots of shopping or for hauling your rotary cutting board and your quilting supplies. Or, since it's mesh, an outing to the beach.

The kits for this bag contain 2 yards of fabric, 1/8 yard of coordinating fabric for bargello piecing work on pockets, and 28" x 43" of mesh.  
In addition, you will need 1/2 yard of batting and 9" strip of hook and loop tape.

**Cost of Kit: \$37.00** (Club Members \$29.00) **available November 23**

**Cost of fabric per yard ~ \$12.00** (Club members \$9.50)

**Mesh (black or white ~ \$15.00 per yard** (Club members \$12.00)

**Four colorways:**

**A ~ Blue as shown above**

**B Gold Colorway**

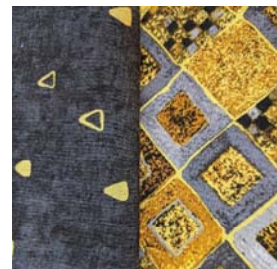
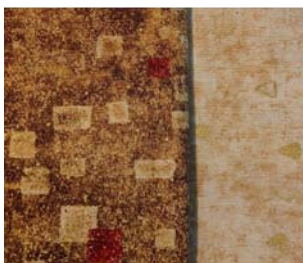
- Brown with red squares
- Gold with metallic Gold triangles

**C Red Colorway**

- Black with gold metallic triangles
- Red circles

**D Black Colorway**

- Black with gold metallic triangles
- Black/gold squares





## Upcoming Class ~ Wacky Paper Dolls

Part 1 ~ Jan 11 (6:30 cst zoom)

Part 2 ~ Jan 25 (6:30 cst zoom)

Meet Topsy the Toe Dancer.

She is the prototype for this upcoming class.

More examples will be included in the November and December newsletters.

### Included in the Class:

You will receive a kit that includes:

- ◆ patterns for all sorts of body shapes, and interesting clothing
- ◆ Printed facial features
- ◆ a pressing sheet
- ◆ Parchment paper
- ◆ Misty fuse
- ◆ 2 Micron Pens

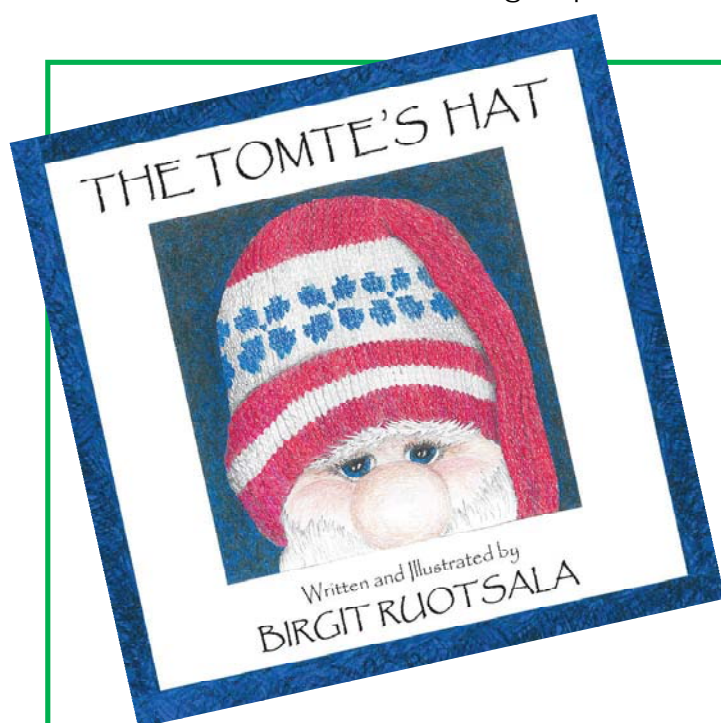
You don't need to be able to draw to end up with a crazy paper doll. Above are just a **few** of the choices you have for eyes and lips! Plus, you will learn a few tricks to make great backgrounds and patterned fabric. Supply list will be sent when you sign up.



Cost: \$40.00 (+\$5.00 s&h)

If you live in the area, I will deliver it to you.

Sign up now ~ Limited space



I am so excited for my first children's book to be released. We should have books in hand by Dec. 1.

*Introductory Price:*

\$16.99 Hardcover

\$9.99 Softcover

This book is a story about how the tomtes get their hats. I give a little information about immigration to the USA with human families and what tomtes do to earn their keep.

I will be glad to deliver in the Green Bay area and

I will be in Escanaba early

December for delivery.

To order, please email me at:

[birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com](mailto:birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com)





## **Are you a student who is looking for the perfect virtual online class?**

Global Quilt Connection presents a meet the teachers webinar series showcasing teachers offering open enrollment to individuals in a variety of virtual workshop formats. Each teacher will give you a glimpse of the virtual workshops they offer and their class formats to give you a sense of what you can learn and create with them.

Webinar 1: November 17, 2020 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. eastern

Webinar 2: November 19, 2020 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. eastern

Webinar 3: February 9, 2021 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. eastern

Webinar 4: February 11,

2021 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. eastern

**The webinars are free to attend but you must register for them.  
go to: [globalquiltconnection.com](http://globalquiltconnection.com)**

**WWRWS**  
Women Who Run with Scissors

Women Who Run With Scissors have a fall exhibit at the Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor through the end of the year. Two collections will be on display "Exotic Pollinators" and "Old Mail Revisited."

## **Website Information**

My website is being updated a little so that things are a little easier for you to find.

- Clubs, Classes and BOM Clubs all have patterns and kits in the same tab so you don't have to go to the store.
- Tomte information is all listed together. Tomte Times is a separate newsletter that will keep you updated on all things "tomte, nisse and tontte"
- If you are in the Green Bay area, please order directly from me and I will deliver. It will save pay pal and Etsy fees and shipping for you! You can write a check when I deliver, mail a check or call me and I will run your credit card through my Square account.
- If you can't find something, please send me an email and I will help best I can.





This is not the actual card.

## Tomte Greeting Cards

I have been busy drawing designs for Tomte blank greeting cards.

Check my website often as new designs will be added weekly.

Cards are 5" x 7" on cream cardstock with matching envelope. The image is on glossy paper and attached to the cardstock.

**\$3.50 each**

**\$3.00 each for 4 to 11**

**\$2.75 each for 12 or more**

Cards will be available November 15th.

Place your order by emailing:

[birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com](mailto:birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com) or call

920-327-3335

Quantities limited

**Lilla and Helmer wish you  
A Happy Thanksgiving.**

*Til next time,  
keep creating*

*Love, Birgit*

[birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com](mailto:birgitsdesigns@new.rr.com)  
[www.birgitsdesigns.com](http://www.birgitsdesigns.com)

