



Top centre: Suzy loves to incorporate her two young kids into her practice!

Above: Suzy and her Signature Pure Solids for Art Gallery Fabrics

Below: The Shining Star quilt: evidence of Suzy's exploration of textile art and graphic design in her patterns



WHY WE QUILT

SUZY QUILTS

Quilting gave Suzy a sense of belonging at a young age: now, it feels like home

The reasons why I quilt have evolved over the last 20 years. When I was 15, I quilted for belonging. I grew up in a small, close-knit community that valued sports above all. Sundays were for church and football. Fall was for soccer and winter was for basketball. If you didn't like playing sports, people really didn't know what to do with you.

Until I found quilting, I was an outsider with no skills or innate talent because, alas, I did not like sports. I will never forget the evening I sewed my first quilt block. It was a simple nine-patch made with Civil War reproduction fabrics. None of the seams lined up, and one of them even unravelled before I made it to the ironing board. I loved it. That was a turning point in my sense of self and in how I wanted to spend the rest of my life. I realized I could create things of beauty with my hands.

Once I learned the skills of traditional patchwork sewing, I began to explore the combination of textile art and graphic design. I was an art student in my early 20s, learning about new things every week. I tried techniques in dyeing, stitching, and

printing. I even made a sculpture of a fabric crane as tall as myself! The only limit to what I could do with fabric was my imagination. I quilted as an artistic expression.

Fast forward 15 years to the present. I still quilt for belonging and as an artistic expression, but unlike before, when I saw quilting as a safe haven and a limitless form of creativity, I now see it also as an old friend. My dear friend who won't leave me if weeks go by and I'm too tired to check-in. It's a faithful companion who will be there when I need comfort, or even just 15 minutes away from my kids.

Over many years, I have stitched my way through tragedy, joy, confusion, uncertainty and celebration. So why do I quilt? Because no matter what I am feeling or what is going on in my life, when I sit at my sewing machine or stand at my cutting table, I know I belong and my creativity is limitless – I am home.



Top: Suzy's Stars Hollow and Star Crossed patterns

Bottom: Suzy at 15, when her quilting journey began



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