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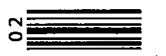
# Quilter's connection

FOR CANADIAN QUILTERS

*the art of  
art quilts*

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the bird of wisdom  
quips, quotes and quilts

by Kim Caskey





Kim Caskey has been sewing and creating her whole life. Her mother introduced Kim to sewing at age five. In those early years, Kim learned patience and techniques that allowed her to sail through the fibre and fashion parts of Home Economics classes in high school - but the cooking segments were not so successful! Kim learned to knit and embroider from her Grannie, learned advanced garment construction from her mom, and picked up cross-stitching, crochet, tatting, and rug hooking along the way. Following high school, she received professional training in dressmaking and tailoring, and completed the NAIT diploma program of tailoring.

Kim began her quilting study with Earthly Goods Quilting (Premiere Quilt Shop, Edmonton, AB) in February 1992 - quite accidentally, as her mother was unable to attend the Rotary Cutting class she was registered in, so Kim stepped in to fill the spot. Kim was immediately drawn to the wonderful samples and beautiful cotton and it wasn't long before she was hooked. Twenty years later, Kim enjoys every minute of her creative life as a designer, fibre artist, teacher and long-arm quilter, and spreads her passion to quilters and creators around the world.

• [www.kimcaskey.ca](http://www.kimcaskey.ca)

Have you ever found an interesting or profound quote or phrase? Want to do something creative with it? Try this totally innovative, free-form style art quilt created by Kim Caskey - while exploring some fun and exciting "what-if" techniques. Play to your heart's content with freeform cutting using no rulers or measurement, random machine piecing, raw edge appliqué, rubber-stamped or inked text letters, free-motion quilting - the list goes on!

## materials

Finished Size: approx 17 x 14

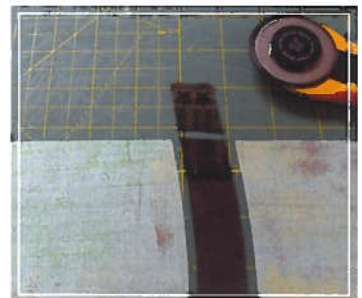
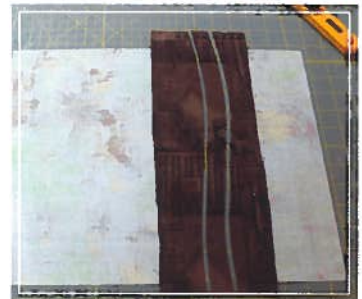
Templates: Print templates at 100%

Difficulty Level: ☒ ☒

- 5-7 different fabrics in light, medium and dark values
- 1 - 15" square fabric for background
- 1 - 15" square batting
- 1 - 19" square backing fabric
- fusible webbing
- tear away stabilizer
- appliqué pressing sheet
- rubber stamps/archival inkpad, pigma pen and/or embroidery floss for text
- buttons or other embellishments
- spray baste or basting pins

## BACKGROUND/BRANCH

- 1 Choose a selection of fabrics of light, medium and dark values - 5-7 should be a good start.
- 2 Choose one piece as the background and cut a sizeable piece in a square(ish) shape, approximately 15" x 15".
- 3 Choose a piece of fabric to use as the branch (of which the bird will be perched) and cut an approximately 3" strip x the width of your background.
- 4 Lay the branch fabric strip right side up on top of the background fabric in the lower quarter; make a slow undulating curve with your rotary cutter without your ruler. Make another slow undulating curved cut about 1" parallel from the first cut; trim the edge of the strip flush with the edge of the background.



- 5 Stitch the branch strip to the background, RST with a narrow seam allowance ( $\frac{1}{8}$ "); press seam allowance flat. Stitch the lower background piece to the lower edge of the branch strip; press flat.



#### PATCHWORK LOWER EDGE

- 1 Choose a number of fabrics and randomly piece together a strip approximately 3" x width of your background. For interest, use various sizes and shapes for this patchwork slice.



- 2 Using the technique described above for the branch cutting, lay the patchwork strip right side up on top of the bottom edge of the background, overlapping by approximately 2"; cut a slow undulating curve through the two layers; trim the edge flush.



- 3 Trim the bottom edge of the patchwork strip; add numerous strips of fabrics in various widths until satisfied with the length of your piece.



#### LEFT EDGE

- 1 Add a very narrow strip of fabric using the cutting and piecing technique as previously described.
- 2 Add a wider strip of an interesting fabric to the outside edge.

#### BOTTOM EDGE

- 1 Piece in a very narrow strip of fabric using the same cutting and piecing technique.
- 2 Add a wider strip of an interesting fabric to the outside bottom edge.



#### APPLIQUÉ BIRD

- 1 Place a layer of fusible web over the bird template pieces. Trace the body, wing, head and neck ring onto the paper side of the fusible web with a pencil; cut out the shapes, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ " around the traced lines. Adhere fusible webbing to the wrong side of chosen fabrics (*Kim used dark for head, light for neck ring, and 2 medium prints for body and wing*); cut out shapes precisely on the marked line. Build the bird on a non-stick appliqué press sheet.

*note*

The neck ring is cut larger so it can be tucked under the body and head.

- 2 Position the bird on the background and press with iron to adhere.
- 3 Using a tear away stabilizer underneath, raw edge straight stitch around the bird and wing; using a satin stitch, stitch the legs and feet as per main photo.



## QUILTING

- 1 Square up the piece; layer with batting and spray baste or pin in preparation for quilting.
- 2 Using a walking foot, stitch in the ditch of all patchwork, strips, and around outside edge.
- 3 Free-motion machine quilt around bird appliqué and in the background as desired.
- 4 Prepare backing for an envelope finish: Cut a piece of backing fabric approximately 4" wider and longer than the size of the finished piece; cut the backing vertically into two pieces -  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's; stitch these pieces together with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, leaving approximately 4" open in the middle of the seam; this will be used to turn the quilt right side out.
- 5 Place your backing piece right side up in front of you. Lay the quilted piece right side down onto the right side of the backing; pin baste the entire outer edge. Using a walking foot, stitch with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance around the entire edge of the quilt.
- 6 Clip the corners and turn right side out; press flat. Slip stitch to close the opening in the backing.
- 7 Machine quilt through all layers to secure backing, if desired.

## TEXT

- 1 Choose a suitable quote - eg. "everything happens for a reason", and preferred method for getting your text onto fabric.

**RUBBER STAMPS:** use archival, permanent inkpad (eg. Stazon, Archival) and letter/word stamps; stamp words onto fabric; heat set with iron.

**PIGMA PEN:** print out a paper original of suitable font sized words; stabilize fabric with freezer paper. Trace words with pigma pen using a light box and heat set with iron. Cut words from fabric and position on wall hanging as desired; hand stitch to secure.

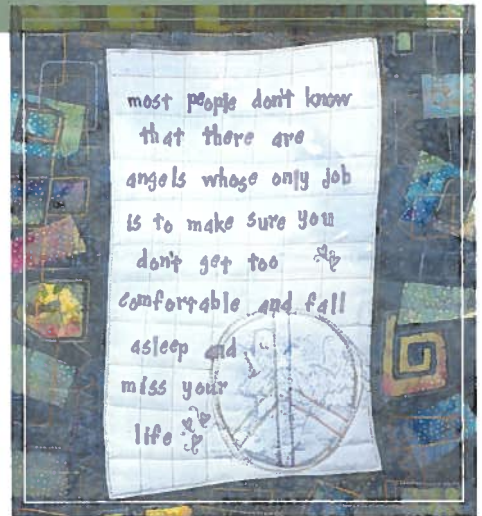
**EMBROIDERY:** print the desired text with a chalk pencil or water-soluble marker onto fabric. Using 2 strands of embroidery floss or fine perle cotton, stitch letters using stem stitch or back stitch.



## FINISHING

- 1 Stitch on buttons or other embellishments.
- 2 Add a label to your piece, including your name and date.
- 3 Add a sleeve for hanging.

## SOME ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF QUOTE QUILTS BY KIM



Template  
at  
100%

*the birds of wisdom*

