

# Pictorial Art Quilter Christine Fries Returns to The Quilt Fest of New Jersey VI

Story: Mary Claire Moyer

The world of quilting consists of many talented artists, amazing instructors and a love for fiber art. [The Quilt Fest of New Jersey VI](#) is proud to return this **March 4-7**, to the **Garden State Exhibit Center** with an incredible line-up of instructors offering workshops for all levels. **Christine Fries**, talented quilter and instructor, travels to The Quilt Fest of New Jersey to share her passion, knowledge and love for quilting!

## The Beginning

Christine Fries was born and raised in Belgium. In 1982 she moved to the US where she and her husband started a family which grew to include six children, all boys. They now reside in Vermont.

Though the demands of being a wife and mother put some of her aspirations on hold, Christine never lost a dream of becoming involved in the world of art. In 1998, she visited the Vermont Quilt Festival. Seeing these beautiful quilts for the first time changed her life forever. She began to learn quilting. She knew little about sewing and nothing about quilting when she started. She read books and took beginner's classes and soon quilting became a passion.

## Inspiration & Style

Christine's art quilts have been inspired by beautiful paintings she saw in Europe. "I try to adapt the beauty of great artwork to the quilting medium, and so share it with those who may perhaps have never seen it."

Though she loves all quilting styles, from such traditional ones as log cabin quilts to the various innovative abstract styles, Christine's greatest fulfillment has come from creating pictorial art quilts. "In learning to quilt, I was exposed to and tried different styles and techniques. Pictorial art quilts are the ones I am most passionate about at present. They allow me to combine things I love in one artistic expression: planning and drawing adaptations of beautiful scenes, being challenged with the technical details of how best to represent them as quilts, deciding on colors, handling and selecting beautiful fabrics and threads, and the other things that go into making a quilt. They allow me to combine my love of fine art with my love of quilting in a single artistic endeavor."

Christine mostly uses a machine-appliqué technique in her quilts. She prefers to leave no raw edges. She uses a muslin foundation to appliqué all the pieces onto, machine appliquéing by free motion. "I work one quilt at a time. I love the process. I love touching fabric, looking at threads and yarns, and digging in boxes full of spools of thread and beads. There are always parts of making a quilt that are more difficult, but they are well worth the effort. I love thread painting to enhance shading and add dimension and texture.

*Miranda: the Tempest*



*Machine and hand appliqué, machine embroidery and thread painting.  
Original adaptation of a pre-Raphaëlite painting, by English artist John  
Waterhouse, of a scene from Shakespeare's play, The Tempest.*

### **Words of Wisdom**

“Each fiber artist develops an individual style to express something unique in fabric and thread, creating art by means of personal ideas about the use of color, texture, and design. We then become part of 'the Big Design' (life itself), sharing beauty and deep feelings to help one another find our destinies, leading always toward true love....”

“Part of my joy and fulfillment in quilting comes from being able to communicate, through my quilts, feelings which are hard to convey through words: dreams and true love. I also wish through my quilts to communicate encouragement; the beauty and strength of love does exist! Don't start to doubt it! Try to realize your dreams, and don't be afraid. You never know until you try!”

“I have seen quilts which inspire me and communicate feelings of strength and peace. Quilts have special power to give to others.”

Major sponsors **American Sewing & Vacuum Center: Baby Lock/Janome, Creative Sewing of Nanuet: Pfaff, Coats & Clark, Handi Quilter** and **Tin Lizzie 18** generously sponsor The Quilt Fest of New Jersey.

### **When You Go ...**

<b>What</b>	<a href="#"><u>The Quilt Fest of New Jersey VI</u></a>
<b>Where</b>	Garden State Exhibit Center 50 Atrium Dr Just off I-287, Exit #10 Somerset, New Jersey 08873
<b>When</b>	March 4 – 7, 2010 Thurs, Fri, Sat: 10 am – 6pm Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm
<b>How Much</b>	\$12 (includes re-admit). \$10 Sunday Only. Under 16 free.