

The Quilt Fest of New Jersey VIII Welcomes Dierdra McElroy

Unique Quilter & Informative Instructor

[The Quilt Fest of New Jersey VIII](#) at the **Garden State Exhibit Center**, Somerset, New Jersey, **March 1-4, 2012**, features an impressive instructor line-up offering a variety of workshops and lectures. This year's Quilt Festival features well-known instructors including the very talented and informative [Dierdra McElroy](#)!

As a young child Dierdra's family moved every year due to her father's career. When she was nine, the family moved to the island paradise of Tahiti where they stayed until she was ready to go to high school. Finally able to settle in and put down roots, Dierdra still feels like Tahiti is home. She is bilingual and developed a passion for Tahitian appliqué through her mother and Tahitian nanny.

Moving back to the United States at 15 presented Didi with new challenges. Relearning English and American teen-age cultural standards was near traumatizing but she thrust herself into sports and became state ranked in tennis. Didi's mother, Roxanne discovered quilting and shared this new passion, as well as the frustrations that came with it. Dierdra used her knowledge to design new products for her mother after seeing some of the frustrations she was having. This led to products such as the world famous Roxanne Thimble and Roxanne Glue-Baste-It.

Twenty years later the Roxanne name is well known by all discerning quilters and Dierdra is known for her methodical testing of products in the industry. She shares her studies and findings in the classroom to help quilters avoid pitfalls, frustrations and save money. She wrote a bestselling book in her mother's name shortly after Roxanne passed away in 1997. The book is titled the same as her world famous hand quilting classes, *That Perfect Stitch*. The book has been referred to as the hand-quilting bible and is frequently the standard textbook in quilting classes around the world. *That Perfect Stitch* is was recently updated and released again in September 2011.



Dierdra's passion for people makes her an enthusiastic and enticing instructor. She delights in motivating students to step outside of the box to creative heights and strive for excellent workmanship no matter their style choices. Didi is internationally recognized as one of the world's greatest hand quilters and her ability to break down that art into manageable steps amazes her students.

Dierdra is presenting two full day and two half-day workshops, a lecture and a special exhibit featuring her and her mother's, Roxanne McElroy, quilts at the Quilt Fest. On Thursday March 1 from 9 am to 4 pm, Dierdra will teach her world famous *That Perfect Stitch* workshop. She will repeat this class on Saturday, March 3. On Friday, March 2, Dierdra will present a Tahitian Appliqué class in the morning and a Japanese Gingko workshop in the afternoon. At 4:30 on Friday afternoon, Dierdra will lecture on the topic Be a Fabric Detective. For more information on Dierdra's workshops and lecture and to pre-register for the Quilt Fest of New Jersey VIII, please visit www.quiltfest.com.

Above and Beyond Creative Sewing Center: Pfaff; American Sewing & Vacuum Center: Baby Lock-Janome; Olde City Quilts: Bernina; Pocono Sew & Vac: Brother-Elna-Handi Quilter; ABM/Innova; Tin Lizzie 18 and Coats & Clark generously sponsor The Quilt Fest of New Jersey.

View and/or print the complete brochure from www.quiltfest.com or to receive a brochure in the mail, please send \$3 (check payable to Mancuso Show Management) to: **QFNJ**, Dept. P, PO Box 667, New Hope, PA 18938.