In Flanders Fields The Poppies Grow:
Cherrywood Poppy Quilt Challenge and Quilt of Valor Quilts
April 14, 2026 through July 5, 2026
Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset, Iowa

In Flanders Fields

by Canadian surgeon Lt. Col. John D. McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place. While in the Sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Unheard, amid the guns below.
We are the dead, Short days ago
We lived, felt dawns, saw sunsets glow;
Loved and were loved – but now we lie
In Flanders Field

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch, Be yours to bear it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep tho' poppies blow
In Flanders Field.

—December 8, 1915

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In 1915, Canadian physician and poet John McCrae composed "In Flanders Fields" on May 3 during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. The poem was published in Punch magazine that December and quickly became one of the most popular and quoted works of World War I. It was used in recruitment drives, propaganda, and war-bond campaigns. Today, the red poppy from McCrae's poem remains a powerful symbol of remembrance for soldiers who have died in combat.

Two years ago, Cherrywood Hand Dyed Fabrics reached out to the Iowa Quilt Museum. Knowing that the national headquarters of Quilts of Valor is right here in Winterset, they proposed displaying their latest Poppy Quilt Challenge alongside Quilts of Valor.

The result is this beautiful and moving exhibit.

You will see all 225 quilts from the Cherrywood Poppy Quilt Challenge alongside six Quilts of Valor that will be formally awarded on July 4.

Together, these quilts honor the fallen, celebrate service, and remind us of the enduring power of remembrance.

Enjoy the exhibit, and thank you for visiting the Iowa Quilt Museum.

Following are the stories behind each quilt in the Cherrywood Poppy Quilt Challenge. You'll find them listed alphabetically by the maker's last name:

Adamietz, Lori - Staff Choice
Chaska, Minnesota
Tranquility in Nature
I remember learning the poem, "In Flanders Fields." | didn't understand the significance at the time.

Allen, Judith
Battle Creek, Michigan
Flanders Field
My response was inspired by a photo my friend shared of her poppy garden. The bright blooms stood out against the green leaves. They were so enchanting I wanted to blur all the colors together to create a soft background. Soft enough to lay one's head down and enjoy the beauty of the garden. Standing up again would take strength, and to me the poppy represents strength, strength to remember the ones who have gone before us. It is in their memory we find our own strength to move forward.

Allen, Nicki
Springfield, Virginia
Folk Art Poppies
As I researched for this challenge, I found many haunting images of trenches and memorial cemeteries. I hope now I have a better understanding as I look back to the past.

Aller, Allison
Washougal, Washington
Soldier Boy: Every Mother's Son
My thoughts began in Flanders Fields, but spread to all the wars fought in our world today. I grieve for mothers losing their children, and all those children losing their mothers, too. I wanted my quilt to express this sadness, but also that hope and faith never need to die. I employed my stained glass technique and decided to make my composition more "glasslike" by felting reflective silk and bamboo fibers into my Cherrywood fabrics to create skin, hair, and background shifts in tone and value. In the design process I generated many, many early sketches using AI, discarding and refining different aspects and combinations over three weeks to develop my final design—while I prayed all children of war make it safely home, and in peace.

Anders Morris, Mary
Falcon Heights, Minnesota
Poppies for Remembrance, Poppies for Peace
For more than 100 years, poppies have been used in remembrance of men and women who died in wartime. As I hand stitched my way across the fields of flowers and gravestones, through the forested hills and war-darkened skies, I thought about all those lives cut short: never again to see dawns or sunsets, to feel life's joys and pains, to hear the song of a lark. And I dared to hope: Perhaps the poppy could also serve to remind us we must find less-devastating ways to resolve conflict.

Anderson, Bonnie Larrison
Wahpeton, North Dakota
Poppy for Peace
I designed a large-scale flower to show off the beauty of the poppy and the hand-dyed fabric. Credit to Melissa J. Will for the beautiful photo that inspired my piece (used with permission). I employed machine and hand embroidery stitching, beading, and hand-dyed, hand-spun yarn to enhance the poppy. Tiny crosses were hand embroidered on the poppy to recognize the poppy's role honoring veterans for the past 102 years. Nationwide distribution of poppies began in 1922 by the Veterans of Foreign Affairs. This poppy honors veterans. This poppy is a symbol of hope for peace throughout the world. This is a poppy for peace.

Arnold, Frances
Bishop, Georgia
I Remember
My quilt is a remembrance of my dad and his military service during World War II. All of the insignia, ribbons and awards are replicas of the ones in his service record.

Arthaud, Lisa - Staff Choice
Warrenton, Virginia
She Said Yes to the Dress!
During my childhood years, the Minnesota State Fair had a lively venue called the Mexican Village, now called the International Bazaar. I remember dragging my mother to the stage so I could watch flamenco dancers—I can still hear the thundering, repetitive stomps, the clapping hands, and the sweet sound of guitar music. I was mesmerized by the flowing fabric and the dancers' passionate storytelling art. When Cherrywood announced the theme, I knew I was going to make a flamenco dancer's dress to recreate a favorite childhood memory—and you can imagine my joy when I found there was indeed a Flamenco Dancer poppy! I loved creating the shawl from a variety of trims: I hand dyed a sheer fabric embellishment to match the poppy colors.

Ash, Sherrill
Ivins, Utah
Poppy Fields
I wanted to create a quilt to represent the fields of poppies that became the symbol of remembrance for fallen soldiers. I drew two improvisational, paper-pieced flowers and used different combinations of the fabric colors to create variety. The background is strip pieced to represent leaves and stems.

Aubin, Chandra
Saint Charles, Missouri
In Flanders Fields the Poppies Grow
"Between the crosses, row on row." My grandfather was a surgeon in World War II and died when I was 5. My father-in-law went to the Pacific during World War II when he was 18 years old, and all three of his older brothers served. When he returned, both his mother and father had died. He always wore a poppy on Memorial Day. I wanted to create a quilt in remembrance of the sacrifices of so many for the freedom of us all. Lest we forget.

Baker, Michelle

Missoula, Montana

Field Aglow

I love machine quilting and thread painting. I wanted a mandala of poppy flower pods and was inspired by a design by my niece. I also wanted to explore 3D elements for the poppy petals by fusing aluminum foil to the Cherrywood fabric and thread painting. I also learned to make thread bees and drizzle stitches from Sue Spargo's book to enhance the flower centers. I feel the poppies glow on this field of green.

Ball, Jennifer

Wilsonville, Oregon

Miss Poppy Purrington

Miss Poppy Purrington is a playful garden kitty who loves to bask in the sun amongst the poppy flowers. Each morning, Miss Poppy strolls through the garden, carefully checking that each flower and plant is placed to her satisfaction. I was inspired by my own little gray garden kitty, who loves to help in my own garden. She will sit beside me while I plant flowers or remove weeds and offer her sweet opinion with a delicate head butt or a paw tap to my hand.

Bartlow, Sue - Staff Choice
Madison, Alabama
My Grandfather's D-Day Experience
"We arrived at D-Day around 2 pm, landing in an intense situation with big shells exploding nearby. We were pinned down on the beach for an hour, feeling truly terrified by the constant firing of the big guns. Every man on the beach seemed to be feeling the same fear. As we dug in, we faced the challenge of shells bursting around us. I quickly dug a hole with my hands for cover. Moving to another location, we encountered dangerous minefields, requiring careful probing before digging in. I dug for hours without a break, constantly on edge for attacks. The night brought more danger as the Germans bombed the beach, keeping us awake with the constant threat. This was my first night in France on D-Day." - Private First Class Carl Martin Wilcox, Jr., December 7, 1942, World War II.

Bauer, Kathryn
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Sidewalk Free Spirit
In a desert Southwest city, the colors of spring sometimes come in small and unexpected ways. On a recent sunny walk in my neighborhood, I was taken by the fortitude of poppies which can produce a vigorous, healthy flowering plant from just the tiniest bit of soil in a sidewalk crack.

Beck, Suzanne
Chesterfield, Missouri
In Flanders Fields
I always have loved the tactile nature of working with fabric and thread, and the dynamic between the two in a finished piece. After fusing fabrics into a composition, I add texture, color and highlights with thread, hoping to draw the viewer in closer to discover the artwork is not a painting but textile.

Belling, Jenice

Salem, South Carolina

Poppies on Rt 2

I grew up on Route 2 in the rolling hills of Iowa. Hot, sticky summer days produced poppies that danced in the backyard breezes. My beautiful mom was an artist, and she loved painting poppies on canvas. Not only did she teach me to sew, she instilled a true appreciation for art. I aspire to be like her. Quilting has been a passion for many years. My favorite process is "organic quilting," it grows as it grows. I started with a simple concept and a vision for dimensional poppies. Manipulating fabric to create movement and interest directed the design. I enjoy machines and handwork, which are both highlighted. This piece takes me back to those iconic childhood days, oblivious to the world and full of wonder.

Beskow, Judy

Navasota, Texas

Remember

I wanted my piece to represent the sacrifices made by those in the military. The large cross is made with trim from a red velvet Nehru jacket I made for my husband when we were in high school. I also remember him buying me a poppy for Veterans Day, so the memories make this quilt special to me.

Bevell, Barb

Kirksville, Missouri

Lest We Forget

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance and hope. It is a visual reminder of how much those who serve in the military, both past and present, have given to protect our freedom. It also is a reminder of the importance of caring for our veterans, after their service has ended. My piece is a personal tribute to the men in my family who served in World War I, World War II, and Vietnam, including my grandfather, father, father-in-law, and brother. We are all indebted to their service. Lest we forget. Thank you. Techniques used in this piece were learned in classes over the years, including curved piecing, collage quilting, background quilting, thread painting, piping, and embellishments.

Bicknell, Diana

Merrill, Oregon

Remember

Remembering our service members past and present. We, as a country, have fought in many wars and conflicts. What saddens me most is the millions of families affected by the loss of loved ones. I salute the families, with respect, with this unknown soldier in the background of my quilt. The poppies are a keen reminder of the service sacrifice. Personally, three generations of my family include eleven members who have served and one currently in the military. The poem "In Flanders Fields" touches me, as I'm sure it does many others.

Bilardello, Judy
Santa Cruz, California
The Lady in Red
Two first-time experiences happened while traveling out of the country: I attended a beautiful flamenco performance in Spain and later saw a lone red poppy by an outdoor cafe in Tuscany. Both experiences took my breath away. This challenge allowed me to merge these memorable moments in one creative design. When I see the lady in red, I imagine her dancing in a full field of poppies. Their sole purpose is to bring pleasure to the viewer—I hope they are pleasing you now.

Boersma, Ramona - Honorable Mention
Boulder, Colorado
An Invitation
The red poppy intrigues with an air of the forbidden. It spreads and blankets the former fields of war, its beauty mocking and its color a rebuke. It opens its petals and invites the bees to its frothy center, but also entices humans to the soporific sap of its seed pods. In the singular, it's a fragile confection: a crepe flower heavy on its willowy stem. In this piece, I coupled a mature flower with a ripening youth.

Brasfield, Eve
San Jose, California
Greetings From Poppyland
We took an eleven-week, 10,000-mile road trip around the United States in the summer of 2023. I was inspired by the spectacular landscapes along the way and imagined these beautiful red poppies in the postcards and photos we collected on this adventure. I enjoy the Cherrywood challenge, as it always motivates me to explore new techniques in creating these art quilts. I developed various visual effects and textures with machine curved piecing, machine free-motion stitching, hand embroidery, frayed fabric edges, fused raw-edge applique and custom piping for tossed picture frames and on the inner border of the binding. Greetings from Poppyland! Wish you were here!

Brooks, Karan
Vancouver, Washington
Simple Beauty
Red poppies are dramatic while still being simplistic in the makeup of the flower itself. My goal was to show the curvature of the petals through the placement of the quilting lines.

Burton, Carolyn Maia
Seattle, Washington
Poppy Dichotomy
There is nothing more beautiful than a field of poppies. However, there is a dark side to these exquisite flowers. I wanted to show this dichotomy by dividing my quilt to show the light opposed to the dark side. Opium and its derivatives have caused addiction, wars, and death. The chopped-up poppy shows the chaotic thinking of the addicted brain. The shadowy faces disappear into the depths of despair for those who are addicted. On the left side, I endeavored to show the flower in all its beauty.

Byberg, Mary
Redford, Michigan
Poppy Wreath
This wreath is representative of life, the circle that joins us all, the good, the bad and everything in between, the remembering of all the events that form ourselves and our memories. Some blooms are full, some half there, and some are just starting out, just like events in our lives.

Campbell, Robyn
Highgate, Australia
Pixel Poppy
When visiting Houston for the 2023 International Quilt Festival, I came across the Cherrywood Fabric people who told me they'd love to receive some entries from Australia. That inspired me! A friend helped with the design, consisting of 1,600 half-inch squares. I enjoy the challenge of intricate hand-stitching. Using the English paper piecing technique, I covered paper squares in fabric, hand-stitched the squares to make the rows, then joined the rows together. All stitching and quilting has been done by hand, taking an estimated 100 hours to complete.

Carlson, Colleen
Grand Forks, North Dakota
Honoring Einar
Einar J. Myrdal was a first-generation American: his parents were immigrants from Iceland and settled in rural Gardar, North Dakota. Patriotism, community service, and family were highly prized by my maternal grandfather, Einar, who served as an airplane mechanic in an aero supply squadron of the United States Army. He worked exclusively on the DH-4 Liberty planes manufactured in the U.S. and designed by British engineer Geoffrey de Havilland. This single-engine biplane was used for daytime bombing, observation, and artillery spotting. The aero squadrons were the precursor to the present-day U.S. Air Force. Embellishments include a uniform pin whose design was used by the aero squadrons in World War I exclusively. The photo transfer came from an online resource, as I did not have a picture of my grandfather prior to age 60. The oval picture was low resolution. The style of this quilt was built upon simplicity to highlight his military photo.

Carter, Amy
Kuna, Idaho
Red Poppy
I love poppies! I couldn't wait to showcase the fabrics—they were beautiful! I worked on the pattern for months. Once I started, everything just came together. The limited color palette was a challenge but I really enjoyed the stretch. I love the modern feel brought out using the solid colors. I will try this technique again.

Cleveland, Trudy
Oceanside, California
The Unknown Soldier
The Tomb of the Unknowns is a monument dedicated to deceased U.S. service members whose remains have not been identified. While visiting this monument, I was emotionally touched, and stopped to consider the ultimate price paid by a fallen soldier. The challenge was a perfect opportunity to create my own tribute to the unknown soldiers, and therefore to honor all soldiers who protect our freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Cliatt, Silke
Clayton, Georgia
Poppy Mandala
As a meditator, mandalas are meaningful to me. Red is a powerful color and flowers make me happy. I don't usually work with solid colors but I love a challenge, so the design and execution moved me out of my comfort zone.

Coates, Karen - SECOND PLACE
Highland, California
Ode to the Unknown Soldier
The remembrance poppy is the most recognized symbol of soldiers dying in combat in reference to the poppies in the poem, "In Flanders Fields." The recruitment photo of an anonymous soldier represents hope, the smoke-filled sunsets and barbed wire illustrates the brutality of war, the crosses symbolizes the finality of death, and the poppies that grew over the fallen soldiers' graves help bring alive the poem written to memorialize the sacrifice mankind has paid for freedom.

Colby, Lora
Holiday Island, Arkansas
Emerald City Poppies
When I saw the challenge my first thought was watching "The Wizard of Oz" with my son as a Christmas tradition many, many years ago.

Cook, Betty
Omaha, Nebraska
Mountain Memories
During a cycling trip in Colorado, my husband and I came upon a home by a stream with hundreds of red poppies in its front yard. It was breathtaking. Ever since, whenever I see poppies, I am reminded of that day as well as all the wonderful days we spent riding. I am now unable to ride in the mountains, but I still return to hike with friends and my dog. The echo quilting around the flowers mimics a topographic map, which I use while hiking. A good friend encouraged me to enter the challenge, and now when I see a poppy, I will not only think of the trips with my husband, friends, and dog, I also will think of her.

Courtney, Karen

North Saanic, British Columbia, Canada

Lest We Forget—Family Service at Home and Abroad

Each poppy represents a family member who served, at home or abroad, in different wars. The quilted outline of unopened poppies represent those with current and future service. I focused on those who served during the first World War, and each red bead on the map indicates a location where they served. George's bead is slightly off the map to represent his locations along the eastern line. Although the battle line changed often, I felt it was important to show how close they were at times. On the quilt, red embroidery represents the battle line of April 10, 1918. This map also shows the range of the guns, which was particularly important for Kitty as there are diary entries about shelling at the hospital in which she served. The map is public domain and cited on the quilt label.

Craig, Tina

Wakefield, Rhode Island

Poppies, Poppies

This is my first entry in a Cherrywood challenge. My friend Sharon and I attended the International Quilt Festival in Houston last year and were blown away by the monarch challenge finalists. Sharon encouraged me to enter this year. As an avid English paper piecer, I designed my own hexagon block inspired by a poppy blossom. I used standard one-inch jewel shapes for leaves. I decided to free-motion quilt each shape with coordinating Aurifil thread on my Bernina 770. The loopy quilting design in the negative gray space is my signature fill. I don't include piping as an edge finish very often but using Susan Cleveland's Piping Hot Binding technique is incredibly satisfying. While working on this quilt, I could almost hear the Wicked Witch of the West casting her spell over the poppies in "The Wizard of Oz."

Crowell, Julie and Lucy
Katy, Texas
Field of Memories
She walks through the field just as she did with her mother when she was a little girl. She remembers holding hands and sharing secrets only mothers and daughters understand. She remembers her mother's stories about the strength of past women of their family. She laughs as she remembers Mother losing her hat to the wind. She looks forward to sharing this field of memories with her daughter one day. Mother and daughter made this quilt together, creating their own memories.

Croxen, Alexis - Staff Choice
DeLand, Florida
Cut Poppies, Not People
Like this aesthete and pulchritudinous woman gathering a poppy bouquet, I believe the capacity we have to truly see, experience, enjoy and understand beauty everywhere makes us humane. The more we collectively nurture this ability, the greater our propensity toward future peace.

Crum, Marguerite
West Lafayette, Indiana
Way West of Baltimore
This quilt was inspired by Elly Sienkiewicz's traditional Baltimore album blocks, by Pearl Pereira's more contemporary blocks, and by current trends in quilting. While my hand appliqué is very traditional, the free-motion machine quilting is very different from the original hand-quilted Baltimore albums. Artistic license was taken with the poppy leaves—or maybe it's a newly discovered hybrid?

Dain, Sauni-Rae - Junior's Choice
Fullerton, California
Remembering Fields of Hope and Despair
I have always had a fascination with the tales old soldiers, like my Great-Uncle Anthony Domingos, told regarding their experiences during World War I. Thinking of Uncle Tony's stories, I depict an aging veteran gazing at his photo album, referencing two events (less than six months apart) that epitomize the emotions of WWI: Hope in the Christmas truce or "Silent Night;" and Despair in the Second Battle of Ypres—the first large-scale use of gas by the Germans and where John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields." His memories burst off the pages as poppies, while crosses on the fields represent the 17 million civilians and soldiers who died in WWI.

Davis, Dawn
Lebanon, Oregon
Entering the City
Everything within this 20" square was new to me and a challenge in itself: 1. Only use what was included in the challenge kit (no added embellishments); 2. Raw-edge appliqué; 3. Circular quilting. I chose raw-edge appliqué because it seemed to mimic the "fuzz" on the stems of poppies. And because poppies immediately bring to mind "The Wizard of Oz," I wanted to express a nod in that direction. The circular quilting is reminiscent of the dizzying effect the poppies had on the group.

Davis, Janet

Alamosa, Colorado

Colorado Poppy

Poppies are one of my favorite flowers. They are happy to grow in the high mountain valley at 7,500 feet where cold winters and dry summers are the norm. Peeking out as one of the first to bloom with their frilly ruffled petals, they are a welcome sight. I love to photograph poppies and have used them in several of my art quilts. Scrunching up fabric to give the petals a crepe paper look is one of my favorite techniques. Drizzle embroidery stitches finish off the center for a Colorado poppy. Colorado means red. A red poppy is a symbol of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

Davis, Reyne

Cincinnati, Ohio

Wandering Through the Beauty

As I observe the wild rabbit freely wandering in a labyrinth of beautiful poppy fields, I feel a sense of freedom and calm wash over me. I can't help but think this is the perfect place to get lost and simply enjoy being alone and alive as I listen to the soft rustling of the poppies dancing together in the wind. I imagine myself as this small creature finding peace and tranquility among the captivating elements of beauty. It teaches me to embrace solitude, to find solace in the quiet moments, and to enjoy the complexity of the beauty that surrounds me. This little rabbit wandering the maze of poppies reminds me that while I navigate the complexities of life, I must always remember to pause and enjoy the beauty of the world around me. There is always time to stop and enjoy the delicate, vibrant poppy flowers.

DeGrandis, Denese - Honorable Mention
Heritage Pointe, Alberta, Canada
Opening Night
Designing the poppy and gallery attendees was very interesting. For this project I had decided to use some new techniques: thread painting and raw-edge appliqué. I was pleased with the results and have learned a great deal from participating in this challenge.

Delony, Joan
St. Johns, Florida
Toto, I'm Getting Sleepy!
Poppies are enchanting, and the flower pod holds magical properties— it's no wonder Dorothy and friends fell under the spell of the poppy. A field of multi-layered raw-edge applique petals add texture and flutter, stitched with metallic thread to add enchantment. The improvisationally pieced background adds natural color and depth. Silver metallic thread signifies falling snow.

Denherder Loving, Judy
Zephyrhills, Florida
Remembering
My grandfather was born in 1889 and lived through the Great War, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The photo I used was taken on June 21, 1943, and shows him at 54 years old, wearing the staff sergeant uniform of the Michigan State Troops (existing in the absence of the Michigan National Guard throughout WWII). I depict him wearing a cloth remembrance poppy pin, looking back in time at the sacrifices made leading up to November 11,1918. A cloth pin is worn because real poppies are very delicate and would easily fall apart upon being picked; I have shown the significance of this in the petals falling apart to become drops of blood, shed by those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom.

Dexter-Smith, Barbara

Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Weeping Window

"Weeping Window" depicts a commemorative art installation, "Blood Swept Lands & Seas of Red," at the Tower of London in 2014, which marked the centenary of the outbreak of The First World War (WWI). Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies represented British military fatalities during the war. I attended a ceremony one October evening, at sunset, when the names of 180 Commonwealth troops, killed during the war, were read as part of a Roll of Honor, followed by the Last Post. The lights from The Tower windows spilled down towards the poppies in the moat. The large crowd who attended the Roll of Honor kept a reverential silence as the names were called. The quilt is machine pieced, machine quilted, and hand embroidered with cotton floss and perle cottons. Each poppy was created and attached by hand.

Dinsmore, Bonnie

Pepperell, Massachusetts

Lest We Forget

I wanted to create a quilt with emotional content, not just visual. The poppy has been a symbol of remembrance in Europe since World War I. The battles the soldiers fought in France and Belgium, in trenches and hand to hand, were horrific. I needed to create a connection between the poppy and the haunting images of WWI soldiers. In my works, I try to create a visual palette so rich in colors and unique in content people are drawn to them and want to touch them. I love exploring new subjects and new techniques, trying to capture reflections and perspective through fabric.

Dodge, K. Erica
Fernandina Beach, Florida
Chief Poppy
My grandfather worked as a lineman when I was younger. He was 6'2" and had tan skin. Everyone was respectful and maybe a little intimidated by him. I got it in my head when I was younger that he was an Indian chief (he was born in Oklahoma), which of course I told all my friends! Needless to say when he found out he and my grandmother (born in Indian territory) had a good laugh.

Domenico, Julie
Timmins, Ontario, Canada
Hope
In Canada, the annual poppy campaign of the Royal Canadian Legion honours the sacrifices of the veterans and celebrates the privilege of living in a world free of tyranny. My dad lived through the hard times of the Depression and served in the Navy during World War II. Despite this, he was always hopeful, never dwelling on the past. Dad also served faithfully as a Legion member and poppy campaign chairman at our local branch. Each fall our kitchen bloomed with boxes of symbolic poppies on their way to spread their message. This quilt presents two worlds: will we have a peaceful existence, or the consequences of war?

Dossman, Katherine
Belton, Texas
Purrfect Poppies
I enjoy using many forms of hand stitching and embellishments. Hand embroidery and beading give dimension and texture. As an artist I feel my piece represents techniques that speak about what really makes me happy in my work, and I hope it reflects to the viewer about my style. Challenges are a perfect opportunity to create a new piece with a part of your personality. Cats have a big piece of my heart, so it makes sense they are represented as well.

Dugosh, Mel
Hondo, Texas
Since 1922
From 1922 until the mid 1960s Buddy Poppy Girls were chosen to distribute the Veteran of Foreign Wars memorial tribute flowers, Buddy Poppies, in remembrance of lost American service personnel. These girls and women worked tirelessly to remind others not to forget those who died in the fight for our freedoms. I have chosen to honor them with my original edge-turned hand appliqué design done exclusively in luscious Cherrywood fabrics.

Duhe, Angela
Granbury, Texas
Bloom
The poppy is a lovely wildflower that blooms with vibrant color, adding beauty all over the world. Though often used as a remembrance of the fallen, to me the poppy symbolizes those old words of wisdom: Bloom where you're planted. A simple reminder to embrace the life you have, and make a difference where you are.

Dunn, Maura
San Diego, California
Red Poppies
I fell in love with the red poppy while on a trip to Italy. We had stopped next to a parking lot where these amazing red poppies filled a large field. I couldn't take enough pictures of them and continued to notice them depicted in art throughout Italy. Since that trip, I have saved pictures and quilt patterns of poppies and studied poppy botany to get a sense of scale, design, parts, coloring, and texture, until the time came that I would sew one. Imagine my surprise, intending to enter Cherrywood Challenge 2024, not knowing the red poppy was that year's selection.

Edling, Jude
Minneapolis, Minnesota
It's A Mad Mod Poppy World
Poppies in fields, gentle movement on a breath of air, their form simplified, yet exuberant on a gray day.

Eldridge, Rosalind
Osage Beach, Missouri
Every Poppy Tells a Story
As a ten year old, my fifth grade class listened to stories from heroes about their fearless gallant acts of bravery during their "service." We continued to learn the history of the first World War. I recall making poppies from tissue paper and learning "In Flanders Fields." The poppies growing in the battlefield was a magical image in a time of sheer sadness. As I designed, my thoughts took me back to fifth grade, relearning. Each poppy I stitched is a significant event, or a particular person, or a movement, regarding the poppy during and after the battles. It feels as if I'm standing in Flanders Fields, reflecting on the past and honoring the men who served. The poppy still carries so much meaning across history and continues to be a powerful image of remembrance.

Elliott, Lorraine
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
In Flanders Fields
I traced and then hand embroidered "In Flanders Fields" in the author's handwriting. This is the first year I have entered and both my daughter and I created entries.

Elwyn, Andrea
Dunkirk, Maryland
Boldly Remembered
Lest we forget . . . those many who fought for our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. I had to take this challenge: I was in the Navy for 20 years, my brother in the Air Force for 20, and my uncle a combat Vietnam Veteran, in his final stages of life. Upon seeing the challenge, I immediately contacted my sister, Tamarah Kent. She is an artist and a nurse. She painted the design on poster board using the eight colors. I made her painting come to life as I shared every step, discussed options and shared progress photos every step of the way. It was my utmost honor to create this piece of art.

Fagelman, Chrissy
The Woodlands, Texas
Poppy
I was inspired to create this quilt by my granddaughters. They love to play dress up and love flowers.

Farrow, Jan
Mineral, Virginia
Remember the Fallen
When I saw the Poppy Challenge advertised I was immediately interested in creating an art piece based on the history and significance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance of the fallen soldiers. I used symbolism from the poem, "In Flanders Fields," to create my art quilt. I used pointillism to create a soldier kneeling at the cross and created 3D poppies in a folded fabric technique. The sunset represents the eternal sunset of life. We should all remember the fallen, whether they were soldiers, police, fire fighters or citizens. All are important and deserve to be remembered.

Feikema, Linda
Orange City, Iowa
My Poppy
I remember my mother planting poppies in the little patch of dirt by my childhood home's back door. As they bloomed they were a little patch of color greeting us as we entered the house or as we sat on the steps drinking Kool-Aid. I found this poppy image after searching for several days—I thought it looked like it would be a challenge and also the colors fit perfectly with the challenge fabrics. I used thread painting for texture and shading and also pencil for shading.

Finn, Kerry
West Fargo, North Dakota
Veterans Honor
I'm honoring the brave men in our family, living and dead, who fought to defend our country and protect our freedom. The sacrifices they made shall not be forgotten.

Fisher, Nancy K.
San Angelo, Texas
Poppy and Pollinator
I am intrigued by the diversity of ways flowers use to entice pollinators to visit them. I am also fascinated by the variety of pollinators that have adapted to take advantage of the flowers' offerings. Poppies produce a large amount of pollen that attracts numerous pollinators. Flower beetles visit the poppies to feast on the abundant pollen. As the beetles rummage around the poppy's center, some of its pollen sticks to their bodies. When they leave the flower, the beetles carry the hitchhiking pollen with them to the next poppy. The poppies provide the beetles with a nutritious meal and the beetles pollinate the poppies, which benefits both of them.

Fleschner, Linda - Honorable Mention
Kaukauna, Wisconsin
Celtic Poppies
I wanted to create a traditional design, but with an extra punch. Four, three-dimensional poppies with some double-sided petals and leaves are "growing" from center Celtic knots. Seed pods include covered bead details. Beads embellish the center of the poppies and the circles on the border. A winding vine creates an inner border, and a narrow red ribbon highlights the outer border. Dense quilting adds interest and texture.

Follis, Mona
Simonton, Texas
Last Soldiers Standing
I love the look of poppies dancing in the wind. Their jauntiness is a sharp contrast to the war depicted in the poem "In Flanders Fields." They thrive despite the chaos that fed soil around them. I decided to show some sprouting in a pseudo-idealistic grey concrete setting, with only the memory of green grass fields for encouragement to survive.

Foutch, Michelle
Eldora, Iowa
Coming Home
This quilt is the embodiment of my hope for all returning soldiers - to be reunited with loved ones—headed home as the poppies bloom. The hillsides are covered in vintage green and floral hem tape, which complement the Cherrywood colors, and a vintage rick rack was added as well. I enjoyed every moment creating this.

Frisk, Kim
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Rhythm in Red
We have a beautiful botanical garden in Green Bay where I've spent many hours taking photographs, including those that were the inspiration for this quilt. The background pays homage to my New England roots where stone walls are a big part of the landscape.

Garritson, Jeanne
Lewistown, Montana
Diamond Behind the Lens
This piece is very personal to me as I wanted to honor Combat Camera, specifically in the Air Force. This very important but unsung division of the military is responsible, in part, for documenting the life of sailors, airmen, and marines. My uncle, Colonel Thomas E. Diamond, and his research team are credited with developing digital photography, with existing technology, as we know it today. Although my uncle did not lose his life while on active duty, many photographers have. They are on the front lines, and we wouldn't have the historic photographs and videos of warriors without them. Quilted by Laura Finkbeiner

Gaut, Irmi - Honorable Mention
Scottdale, Pennsylvania
Summer in Flanders Fields
In Flanders Fields where poppies grow, between the crosses row on row." The opening lines in John McCrae's well-known poem were the inspiration for my entry. I wanted to contrast the vitality and vibrancy of life in a summer field with the stark bleakness of death. I was able to achieve this by setting colorful poppies, other flowers and grasses in a center square on point with the flowers overflowing the red border to the dark gray outer frame where rows of 3D crosses are stitched in white.

Gelphman, Kai

Santa Rosa, California

The War to End All Wars - Did Not

Poppies and World War I, with huge numbers of military and civilian deaths, WWI was proclaimed "the war to end all wars." Yet today wars rage in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan. In designing this quilt, 1 wanted to convey the senseless loss of lives initiated by actions of tyrants, dictators, and autocrats, with poppies representing hope and renewal. There is no simple answer to war. But in my heart, I grieve the horrible losses on each side when military action is employed to resolve issues. For someone who quilts with a rainbow of fabric colors, patterns, and home-dyed fabric, using eight fabric colors was a BIG challenge for my soldier's blood-turning-into-poppies quilt. To achieve more colors and texture, I utilized watercolor paints on fabric—a new venture for me! I posed my son and a friend to model dead soldiers. I learned new techniques and thought about war with this challenge.

Gentry, Carole

Tallahassee, Florida

Poppies Unleashed

On February 8, Warner Brothers wrote denying my request to use copyrighted material from my all-time favorite, the 1939 movie, "The Wizard of Oz," thus ending my idea to incorporate its images in my quilt. The disappointment was soon forgotten when, later that evening, my 30-year-old son was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease. His eight-day stay in the hospital to start hemodialysis put the poppy challenge on hold. Two months later, his peritoneal port failed, the pain unbearable, he was given morphine, derived from . . . you guessed it: poppies. This quilt is dedicated to my middle son, Spencer, and the doctors caring for him. Everything on this earth is given for our benefit and use. Used wisely, every herb, plant and flower has the power to heal, relieve pain, and improve human health. The wicked witch may have put Dorothy to sleep with the field of poppies, but Dorothy overcame the spell with help from her friends and found her way home in the end

George, Linda
Boise, Idaho
Poppy Peace
Throughout my years as a quilter, I've found it most rewarding to create original appliqué and collage quilts. Generally, I prefer to forgo using patterns and make my creations unique. For the challenge, I chose a clean contemporary design without additional embellishment in order to truly showcase the beautiful fabrics. As I auditioned the poppies onto the background, I noticed the placement somewhat resembled a peace sign.

Giesfeldt, Lisa - Honorable Mention and 9 for 9
Sussex, Wisconsin
The Poppy Fairy Queen
My inspiration was the fairy artwork by Cicely Mary Barker my mother admired so much. I even used an antique floral sprig and some silk ribbon from my mom in the piece. An Art Nouveau influence from the same time period became my framework. My poppy fairy queen waits by her throne under the blooms for her sprites to appear at any minute.

Gilbride, SuZanne
Cypress, Texas
Emergence
Our Earth is an amazing place, I am inspired every day by the beauty of it all. After war and after extinction (asteroids), after the dust settles, there are new beginnings. There is an emergence of the poppies and other plants and life. I so enjoy working with Cherrywood fabric to create images of flower and animals that speak to my soul.

Godbout, Kelly

Tucson, Arizona

Charlotte

When the challenge was announced I knew I wanted to make a collage of my mother, Charlotte. Even though she was not alive during World War I, she told me she remembers growing up wearing a poppy on her lapel every Remembrance Day. This is a picture of her. This collage is an original design and was created using values to show the facial details.

Gollub, Rachel

San Jose, California

Needs More Orange

California poppies cover the hillsides every spring, turning the landscape into a brilliant orange. The title of the quilt refers to both the fact I usually work with brighter colors, and that, while I love my poppy stained glass creation, I can't help but think it could use more California orange.

Gradischer, Karen

Canton, Connecticut

Ode To Georgia O'Keeffe

My quilt is my interpretation of the 32-cent postage stamp featuring Georgia O'Keeffe's "Red Poppy." As a gardener and lover of all flowers, I have always admired O'Keeffe's larger-than-life paintings of flowers and in particular her red poppy. One of the reasons her paintings were so large was that she wanted us to take time to look—and it never hurts to slow down and appreciate the little things. This project challenged me to slow down and create a poppy quilt worth viewing and to appreciate as well.

Gregurek, Patricia
Houston, Texas
How Sweet It Is!!
I guess you could say that my earliest introduction to poppies was inherent per my Czech heritage. One of my most vivid childhood memories of my mother was watching her sort through numerous 4" x 6" notecards in search of her (family favorite) poppyseed cake recipe. The sights, sounds and scents of her baking in our small kitchen are forever imprinted in my mind. My collage is a representation of these fond memories, her favorite recipe and a loving tribute to my mother, Dorothy Gregurek.

Grover, Karen
Rockford, Illinois
Nostalgia
When I first saw the topic for this year, I was excited: 1 already had drawn an idea for a project that never took off but would work for this challenge! The green colors included seemed to be a bit grayed. However, the longer I worked on the project, the more it took on a vintage look. As a counterpoint, I added crystals and embroidery which I feel introduced an updated look to the whole project.

Gubler, Angela Jean
Saint George, Utah
Never Forget; Always Remember
In my mind's eye I am flying over those fields of destruction and rebirth. I see the blackened ground. The swaths of green where the dead lay. The insistent poppies. All laced with paths, lanes and roads. Choices laid before us. Never forget what has happened, and always remember what is possible.

Gunther, Karen L.
Crawfordsville, Indiana
Yummy UV Poppies!
Bees cannot perceive long wavelengths of light—what we humans perceive as red—thus, red flowers usually are not pollinated by bees. However, the European corn poppy also reflects ultraviolet . . . a bee's favorite color! The UV is represented by the purple Shiva oilstick centers of the poppies. The variegated threads on the seed pod tops are from Laura Wasilowski. The bee and caterpillar lampwork glass beads were purchased from an Ukrainian artist through Etsy.

Habicht, Desiree
Riverside, California
Crepe Paper Poppies
In the vibrant landscape of my childhood, California poppies danced upon the hills, a symphony of colors orchestrated by nature. Inspired by those memories and those of my mother's garden, where poppies reigned supreme, I pay homage to these resilient blooms in my quilt. Each stitch whispers of shared moments with my mother, spending hours together planting different poppy varieties in our garden. We were always amazed at the delicate petals that resembled crepe paper. Through special sewing techniques, I capture the essence of these blossoms, their ruffled petals billowing in the breeze. With a delicate touch of colored pencil shading, beads, and thread, I infuse life into each poppy, evoking the vivid hues that once adorned our garden. As viewers trace the intricate lines of my quilt, I invite them to embark on a journey through nostalgia and nature, where the beauty of the poppy continues to reign.

Hadfield, Pam
Laguna Niguel, California
Aztec Showgirl
"Aztec Showgirl" represents the name of a poppy you might find on the front of a seed packet.

Haig, Nari
Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin
Lady Haig's Poppies
My ancestor in Scotland, Dorothy, Countess Haig, was wife of Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig. Lady Haig started a poppy factory in 1926 as a charity to employ disabled World War I veterans. The factory still exists (now called Poppy Scotland) and makes an impact for veterans of multiple wars. I think of my relatives when poppies are mentioned and when I visit Bemersyde, the family estate. An Art Deco motif of the quilt reflects posters and advertising of the mid-1920s when the factory was established. I love the visual action of Art Deco, which urges your eye to move around the design. It's almost as if reflecting a new entertainment craze of the time: motion pictures.

Hanson, Susan
Elsie, Nebraska
Mom's Poppy
Coming from a patriotic family, I always have loved the significance of the poppy on Memorial Day. While traveling Europe, I saw the poppies on the hillsides as Monet would have painted them. I imagined war-torn fields and cemeteries with spectacular poppies springing forth. I originally designed this poppy in 2016 from a photo of Mom's poppy, intending to paper-piece the petals and applique the leaves. I finished one petal before my mom passed, and I couldn't work on it again until I saw the Cherrywood Challenge. The poppy I designed seven-and-a-half years ago fit the format perfectly. I reworked the petals—the fabric was a perfect choice. Adding toile, Angelina fiber, beads, buttons, and watercolor gave life to the piece. The words come from a sampler in my studio that touches my heart as a memorial to my mom.

Hawker, Lisa
Bellaire, Texas
Poppies Nouveau
I have always loved poppies, Art Nouveau, and stained glass. I relished the idea of combining those with my favorite hobby, quilting. Being able to incorporate my laser cutter into the project made it even more of a thrill.

Hickox, Tashera & McKenna
Chesapeake, Virginia
Per Ardua ad Astra: Through Adversity to the Stars
Inspired by World War II narratives of Royal Air Force crews, my daughter and I created our quilt as a tribute to those stories. This is our first Cherrywood Challenge, and my daughter, who recently studied in London, was motivated by the theme because poppies were prominently displayed throughout the city in the lead-up to Remembrance Day. Her university was across the street from St. Clement Danes—the central church of the RAF—which also inspired her design. The centerpiece is based on the outline of a Short Stirling heavy bomber trying to return to base after suffering damage during a mission over mainland Europe. Representative of all those who never made it home, poppies border the scene and bloom below the bomber at the edges of fallow fields. We used seed beads and 3D petals to create depth and included other embellishments to give the plane a sense of motion.

Hill, Nikki
St. Augustine, Florida
Thumper's Poppies
I was inspired by Vincent van Gogh's "Vase with Poppies" and the mischievous antics of my late Japanese bobtail, Thumper, who will always be my muse.

Hollingsworth, Ben - FIFTH PLACE
Alpharetta, Georgia
The Yin and Yang of Poppies
The Chinese philosophy of yin and yang holds that the universe is composed of competing and complementary forces of dark and light, sun and moon, male and female, etc. The philosophy is based on balance. Poppies are beautiful flowers with great sentiment and symbolism. They also are the source of opioids, which have wonderful use as medicine that helps relieve pain. However, they also are abused and used in illegal and illicit ways. My piece shows yin and yang with the poppy's beauty in one part and the darkness on the other side.

Huffman, Joan
Hudsonville, Michigan
Poppies in Flanders Field
Poppies are synonymous with Veterans Day and the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." I tried to capture their beautiful centers with tightly spaced bugle stitches and lazy daisy centers and their velvety buds, and stems with the couched yarn. The poem embroidered to the side of the blooms is a reminder of the sacrifices made.

Humphries, Miyuki
Adachi-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Love and Peace to Poppies
I made my quilt with the image of poppy flowers that quietly bloom in abundance. Each flower is filled with a prayer for peace. Now is the time for each and every one of us to remember and think about the importance of peace.

Hutchison, Jan
Newton, Kansas
A Pop of Red
My design is inspired by traditional botanical illustrations. I love Art Nouveau, so I used that to frame the poppy. This is the first time I have entered the Cherrywood Challenge; the theme and yummy red fabrics convinced me to try.

Izzo, MaryLynne
Shalimar, Florida
The Beauty of Nature Despite the Devastation of War
To depict the destroyed field, I pieced the grey and green, then washed and dried it and used the ragged back. The giant green clouds represent the chlorine gas that killed so many soldiers. The rough crosses and blowing poppies complete the scene. In order to capture the sentiment of the poem, I also included birds against the dark sky of war. Finally, to show the beauty of the poppy, I did a single large flower appliqué hand embroidered with variegated thread.

Jackelen, Mary E.
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
"Sewing" Poppies
Poppies were seen to grow readily on battlefields as a symbol of healing and rebirth. I included the concept of the ancient Irish goddess of war, Morrigan, whose symbol is a crow. I added Celtic imagery and wrote a poem as well: The Morrigan and her crows flew to each aftermath in the morning dew and "sewed" her poppies wide and true; healing hearts and the ground anew.

Jacoby, Katherine
Caneyville, Kentucky
If I Could Bleed, or Sleep!
I wanted to evoke the beautiful destruction that is the essence of the poppy.

James, Carol
Alexandria, Virginia
The Red Poppy
I have a photo of a poppy flower taken in Colorado by a friend of mine, and a number of years ago I used it in a class learning how to thread paint and work with Steam-a-Seam fusible web. I never finished the project from that class. When I saw that the theme of this year's Cherrywood Fabrics challenge was the Poppy, I decided to enter. I used a few new techniques I had not tried before, such as machine-appliqué, and making French knots. The limited number of fabric colors to work with was indeed a challenge.

Junek, Denise - Honorable Mention
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
Red Poppy
I wanted to capture not just remembrance, but the beauty and resilience of the red poppy. Often blooming in seemingly inhospitable environments, the poppy perseveres and brings vibrant beauty and joy in the most unexpected places.

Kamola, Lynn
Auburn, Washington
Poppies, Poppies Everywhere!
I started my entry by designing a large poppy blossom, about 20" square. I had all the machine piecing completed, and it was lifeless: no movement, no zing. What to do? I could start over or I could meet the challenge. In a rash moment, I cut the piece in quarters and reconstructed it. Changing the location of the quadrants adds movement. The French knots add zing. The sage sashing gives the feel of looking through an old multi-paned window to poppies, poppies everywhere. Or perhaps, the sashing becomes a cross where a soldier lies remembered.

Kemble, Melanie
Lafayette, Indiana
From Broken Ground
During World War I, brutal clashes between the Allies and Germany tore up the fields in France and Belgium, wreaking havoc on the soil. On the bright side, the churned soil brought poppy seeds to the surface, and the nitrogen from explosives actually helped fertilize the soil, giving the poppies nutrients to grow and bloom in spite of the ugliness of war. This quilt is representative of the torn up ground and the beauty that erupted. Poppies were inspired by a Piece O' Cake Designs pattern.

Kerbleski, Marie
Chicago, Illinois
Poppies for the Fallen; Forget-me-nots for Those Who Came Home
This quilt is a tribute to the dedicated men and women who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Kerkemeyer, Amy
Creve Coeur, Missouri
Poppy Reflected
My approach to quilting leans towards more modern styles, which inspired me to create an abstract poppy using curving lines and geometric shapes in the background. The poppy is quilted with free-motion quilting to give the image of flowing, lacy poppy petals and the background is free-motion quilted in lines and curves. In tribute to the World War I soldiers who fell at Flanders Field, I incorporated a quilted trio of simple, outlined crosses. I included a single, realistically rendered poppy quilted into the background to reflect the vibrant abstract poppy design.

Kerler, Kathie
Portland, Oregon
Hope for a Peaceful Future
The fabrics reminded me of the red-orange poppies my grandmother, Pearl Lilly, grew alongside her house. I chose to evoke this memory through a patch of poppies, with stalks of complementary flowers growing around them. My design features simplified shapes which allow me to enhance the flowers and leaves with embroidered details. Some elements are represented with outline stitching rather than appliqué to focus the eye on the flowers. While poppies symbolize, among other things, sleep and remembrance, they also represent peace and should be worn on the left side, over the heart. Given our current world situation, "Hope for a Peaceful Future" seemed timely.

Kilbourn, Barbara
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Liberty Weeps
An allegorical figure of Liberty weeps at the cost of defending her, in the past, in the present, and in the future.

Kilgroe, Jo Ann
Scottsdale, Arizona
Remembrance
I made this quilt to honor the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for our safety and freedom. They left loved ones with shattered and broken hearts. Poppies are the sign of remembrance—to never forget their bravery and unselfish service. I wanted the wreath of poppies to encircle the cross grave markers. The broken stippling represents the broken hearts of those who lost loved ones. It was an honor for me to make this quilt to remember the many who lost their lives protecting us.

Klug, Penny

Wheeling, West Virginia

Remembering Paper Poppies

I have always been a traditional quilter, using the patterns and designs of others. Creating an original work seemed daunting, but I was drawn to the theme. Poppies always remind me of Memorial Day. Growing up in a small town, I remember the ladies from the local VFW auxiliary selling paper poppies on the days leading up to Memorial Day. My mother would purchase those paper poppies and wear them to church and to the Memorial Day services. I took my inspiration for this piece from pictures of live poppies.

Knudson, Tami

Santa Barbara, California

Poppies in the Style of Wool Appliqué

This quilt highlights the supple textures of Cherrywood fabrics, harnessing the palette of eight colors to bring the vibrant and transient beauty of poppies to life. Drawing inspiration from folk art traditions and the tactile richness of wool appliqué, each piece of fabric is carefully selected and shaped to capture the essence of these ephemeral flowers. The quilt juxtaposes the softness of the fabric with the boldness of the poppy's form, creating a visual and sensory celebration of nature's fleeting moments. This work invites viewers to explore the interplay of color, texture, and form, and to feel the poppy field's breeze—immortalized in Cherrywood fabric.

Koraly, Naida

Cape Carteret, North Carolina

Stilt Dancers in Field of Poppies

The poppy has been adopted as an international symbol to honor and pay tribute to the fallen in World Wars I and II. As part of the Commonwealth and British Armed Forces, the island nation of Trinidad still observes the remembrance of their soldiers. Here the Moko Jumbie, a group of energetic stilt dancers, celebrate the living in a field of poppies. By cutting the challenge fabric into tiny confetti pieces, the field of poppies presents a muted background for dancers and for the stitched poppies at the bottom. It is a challenge to work in a limited color palette, but here it was useful to coordinate the flowing costumes with the significance of the background. Raw-edge stitching fits my style with its freedom and lack of precision.

Kosarek, Cheryl

Stillwater, Minnesota

Painterly Poppy

The beauty and spiritual symbolism of the poppy is exemplified exquisitely with the various shades of the suede-like Cherrywood fabric. I used a Timna Tarr technique to create the poppy, which is enhanced with perle cotton, Inktense pencils, trilobal polyester 40-weight thread, and gray beading. A detailed layered binding encapsulates the bloom. May it bring hope for a peaceful future.

Kratts, Aimee

New Braunfels, Texas

Pop Art Poppies

I wanted to use all the reds and oranges as the poppies with a single "black sheep" poppy in the corner. This is a nod to Andy Warhol's poppy paintings and Princess Diana's black sheep sweater. The flowers are made using raw-edge machine appliqué. I love to embroider and chose to embellish each poppy with embroidered stamens using backstitch and French knots. Each flower's embroidery and embroidery floss combination is different, and all are done freehand. I was not interested in using naturalistic colors on the poppy centers. Non-natural colors are so much more fun to me! I chose a stippled background to make the poppies pop off the surface of the quilt.

Kron, Kari

Austin, Texas

Poppy Dragon Courtship Dance

My entry features two dragons engaged in a playful flight amidst a field of poppies. Drawing inspiration from my love of these mythical creatures, I merged their joy into this year's theme. I utilized a blend of appliqué and free-motion quilting techniques my mother taught me. Hand embroidery accents in the flower stamens and buds and fabric painted eyes finalize the details. Also, this is the first time I have ever done the binding myself! This project marks my debut in the Cherrywood Challenge series, representing the beginning of a dragon theme in my work. Thank you for exploring the scene I've created, where imagination takes flight amidst nature's beauty.

Kuck, Pamela

Shawano, Wisconsin

Poppy Pirouette

When I was a child, my parents took me to the California desert to see the poppy fields in full bloom. I remember thousands of flowers blowing and swirling in the gentle breeze, feeling entirely mesmerized by their movement. I felt that again when I saw aboriginal bush medicine leaves artwork in Australia, completely captivated by the undulating style which made them appear to be actually moving on the canvas. Poppies also have amazing medicinal value. Adding poppy seeds to the diet has been found to increase bone strength, fight insomnia, improve digestion, enhance cardiovascular health, regulate blood pressure, and improve skin hydration. I used raw-edged appliqué for the leaves, 3-D fabric appliqué and hand embroidery for the poppy petals as well as embellishments of beads and wire to create the flower center and stamens.

Kuse, Tammy

Manhattan, Illinois

Poppy Time

My idea for the poppy theme was to show the passage of time for someone remembered by a poppy received on a street corner. From boyhood to soldier to veteran to final resting place, the poppy symbolizes a life we should never forget.

Labanaris, Faye
Dover, New Hampshire
I Give You Poppies
It was late April 1983, and I was working on a flower bed in our front yard when an old man walked by and said hello. I did a double take, because the man looked like my late father, who had died that February. "I give you poppies?" he asked, to which I gladly answered, "Yes, thank you!" Awhile later he returned with a small milk carton filled with poppy seedlings. I planted them in a sunny bed outside our family room bay window. They bloomed that June and have continued to thrive and bloom for 41 years. My father loved poppies and had lots in his garden, but because they are tricky to transplant, I had none. Now I have an abundance as they have spread seeds over the years, all thanks to a generous stranger who reminded me of my father and gave me poppies.

Laboda, Kay
San Diego, California
Linda's Poppies
I look forward to every spring when my friend's poppies are in bloom. I can never get enough pictures.

LaBrake, Barbara
Valley Cottage, New York
Poppies
When designing my quilt I used photos of my garden poppies. The poppies are positioned to lead your eye around the entire square. The petals have a velvet-like texture of the soft, hand-dyed fabric. The inner section of the poppy draws your eye to the center of each flower. I quilted just the background to create depth where the poppies are out front and the background recedes. I added thread painting on the unopened poppies to add shading and texture.

Laetsch, Laurie
Salem, South Dakota
Though Poppies Grow
I was inspired by the poem John McCrae wrote in the spring of 1915, "In Flanders Fields." The red poppy became the memorial flower of The American Legion Family on September 27, 1920 in Cleveland, Ohio. It symbolizes the blood shed by those who fought and continue to fight for our country. Every year on the Friday before Memorial Day, members of the American Legion Auxiliary distribute poppies with donations used to benefit veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families. My quilt was made to remember family members who have served in the military past and present. The quilting represents the stars and stripes of the American flag. The label includes the names of family members with military service during the last 100 years.

Landree, Laurie - Honorable Mention, and 9 for 9
Menominee, Michigan
Princess Poppyhat
I love the delicacy of the poppies that grow in my garden, and I love to wear flowers in my hair and on hats. I created a fantasy-like image of poppies in various stages of growth on a fascinator hat.

Latta, Darcy
Monterey, California
Zen Poppies
I was inspired by a group of large Oriental poppies planted at a Buddhist retreat in the mountains. The Cherrywood fabric was perfect to create a scene reminiscent of the peace and beauty of the setting.

Laurin, Diane
Tillamook, Oregon
Memories of Summer In Bloom
When I read the challenge to be red poppies, my thoughts quickly transformed into a vision of a beautiful sunny summer day in my garden. My favorite red poppies were in bloom and the hummingbirds flew strategically around each for a lick of the sweet pollen. It is a memory of breathtaking colors that was a joy to recreate in fabric.

Leach, Alyce
Payson, Arizona
Remembrance
The poppy is so versatile. It grows wild in many places to brighten the scenery. Also, it comes in a variety of colors. It has become a symbol of remembrance for our fallen soldiers, which is what I chose to depict in my quilt entry.

Lee, Mark
Middleton, Wisconsin
We Remember
Poppies are forever linked to Memorial Day for me. When considering the theme, the memory that immediately came to mind was my mother, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, helping distribute little paper poppies to honor our veterans every Memorial Day. Thinking further of poppies and remembrances led me to the other inspiration for this quilt. I have visited Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia several times. The respect and dedication exhibited by those who guard The Tomb of the Unknowns 24-hours a day is a stirring reminder of the immense gratitude I have for those who serve our country, including my father who was in the Navy during World War II. I have tried to capture that somber respect in the gray tones of the monument, contrasted against the warm, colorful, vivid memories of my father represented by the poppies.

Lile, Laurie

Gardnerville, Nevada

Remembrance

Every time I thought about my composition, I came back to remembering when I was a kid and veterans sat in front of my hometown grocery store around Veteran's Day giving out paper remembrance poppies. At the time, I just thought they were pretty decorations, but now I understand how that symbol represents both sacrifice and service. The final passage of "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley represents to me what it must take to face the worst situations with bravery, courage, honor and valor. The poppies are appliquéd and thread painted, and the words are inked and trapunto quilted.

Loasby, Laurie

Tomball, Texas

My Grandfather's Story

Born in Norwich, Norfolk, England, during November of 1919, Berty Harry Abbs joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment at age 20. Captured after being wounded, he became a Japanese prisoner of war during the construction of the Burma Railway in World War II. The poppy symbolizes remembrance in the UK. Each November 11 at 11 am, a two-minute silence marks the 1918 end of World War I. The print on my fabric is actually from a newspaper dated April 20, 1942, which reported my grandfather as missing in Singapore. I frayed the edges of each article for a torn paper effect. Appliquéd poppies and leaves are topstitched. Stems are twisted, frayed fabric. My piece is hand quilted with red big-stitch perle cotton (representing him) and other colors.

Locknane, Emma
Wausau, Wisconsin
Between the Crosses
I've been interested in military history since high school. I was inspired by John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields," and based my quilt on its themes of memorial and remembrance, as well as the symbolism of the red poppy. The foreground flowers were collaged together with the red and black fabrics, and the soldier and background flowers/grass were each a single fabric piece. All were embellished using Inktense pencils, alcohol markers and Micron pens. The sky and crosses were colored using acrylic paint, with accents of white ink in the sky as well. The text on top was stenciled with a sponge and ink. The piece was quilted using a Retro Lines longarm pattern to represent rain and distant crosses.

Locknane, Teresa - Staff Choice
Wausau, Wisconsin
Peaceful Poppies
Inspired by a poppy-themed paper collage I made a number of years ago, I wanted to represent the beauty of the flowers. I also wanted to experiment with surface design for this piece. I used ink, paint, paint sticks, and gel plate printing with stencils, stamps, and rubbing plates to color the green fabrics before cutting them into tiles for the fused background. Multiple techniques, such as hand stitching, beading, Gelly Roll pen, ink, alcohol marker, and machine stitching, were used in the flowers, stems, bird, and sky. The Cherrywood fabric made a great canvas to work on with a variety of materials.

Louden, Maureen
Kalispell, Montana
Poppies of Remembrance
I remember when I was a child, people gave us poppies to wear. I didn't understand the significance at the time.

Mannes, Beverly
Dacula, Georgia
Poppies in Flanders Fields at Sunset
I wanted to convey the serenity of the cemeteries as the sun goes down. Seeing photos allows us to appreciate the ultimate sacrifice of the soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom. Poppies are long associated with veterans because of the way they brighten these solemn grounds. I made them three dimensional so they would be the focal point of the scene showing the gravestones.

Marquardt, Janice - Co-Chair of the Iowa Quilt Museum
Van Meter, Iowa
Azulejos Poppies
I traveled to Portugal with a dear quilting friend in April 2023 and was deeply inspired by the azulejos tiles. I took more photos of tiles than anything else! When this challenge was announced, I remembered those tiles and also remembered we saw poppies by the roads and in fields wherever we went. This quilt is especially inspired by a water lily tile set a modern artisan still makes today.

McCall, Joan
Redlands, California
Remember
I was inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's painting of a single poppy. My idea was to create an improvisational piece that manipulates fabric and thread to mimic the 3D texture of the flower. It is my original design. The word remember, stitched into the background, is a tribute to those who served in World War I, including my paternal grandfather.

McCormack, Diane

Lake Havasu City, Arizona

A Picture of Poppies in Paradise

I wanted the poppies to be more fluid, having the stems weave and flow. Inspired by a pencil contour drawing of a woman I had drawn, suddenly it reminded me of Eve in the Garden of Eden. The seeds symbolize the lifecycle of poppies and people. I added detail to the eyes, which is in opposition to a typical contour drawing, which focuses on the outline and not details. Her eye detail began to remind me of "The Mona Lisa" amidst a field of poppies. The woman almost becomes a poppy. It also appears like a snapshot in time, so I added black tabs at the corners like the photobooks of old.

McDavitt, Michelle

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Joyful Laughter

"Laughter, like a field of poppies, spreads joy in every direction it touches." I tried to encompass joy in the large poppy flowers and the whispers of laughter spreading out through the vines.

McFarland, Etta

Byhalia, Mississippi

Poppies Will Put Them to Sleep

The Poppy theme brought to mind the poisoned poppy field in "The Wizard of Oz" and the Wicked Witch of the West's famous quote: "And now, my beauties, something with poison in it, I think. But attractive to the eye and soothing to the smell. Poppies, poppies, poppies will put them to sleep." "The Wizard of Oz" was written in 1900 at the height of the Art Nouveau period. I have always loved Art Nouveau botanic illustrations and decided to portray my poppies in this style. I quilted the witch's quote about poppies into the background.

McHenney, Sandra
Winfield, Illinois
Fallen Soldiers
When I see a red poppy flower I think of the poem "In Flanders Fields," written by John McCrae. McCrae's poem used the poppy as a symbol to remember the Second Battle of Ypres in World War I. Many soldiers died in that battle including McCrae's good friend, Alexis Helmer. Distraught, McCrae wrote the poem so the lives lost were not in vain. My quilt is a tribute to John McCrae and all who fought in that battle. In the quilting are images of soldiers' helmets, machine guns, crosses as graves, larks flying overhead, and torches to pass on to future generations. The petals falling represent the fallen soldiers. This quilt is a reminder to me to appreciate my freedom and the sacrifices others made for me.

McKenney, Larry
Villa Hills, Kentucky
Poppy Field in Arles
While traveling in France a few years ago, we stopped at a field of lavender for photos. Across the road was a field of poppies. I took several photos to use later in my work. I created a drawing from my photos, then used a fused collage to recreate an impressionistic view of the poppies.

McKenzie, Mary
Port Dover, Ontario, Canada
Lest We Forget
I was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Canadian soldier John McCrea while serving in World War I after observing the devastation and loss of life. While on holidays in France visiting the Commonwealth War Graves, I was reminded of this great human sacrifice. This quilt will be donated to the local legion to commemorate this loss and in remembrance of those who fought. The grey sky in this original design is indicative of the somber environment. The poppies are a copy of my six-year-old granddaughter Olivia's drawing.

McSorley, Leslie
Harrington, Maine
Coquelicots (Poppies en Francais)
This challenge was announced just after my return from a fabulous trip to Paris. I was inspired by the Art Nouveau design all around the city, in the architecture, museums, even a special exhibit of Alphonse Mucha's work. Some of the floral elements included poppies (coquelicot in French). It seemed like a good inspiration to follow. I wanted to include the graceful lines of Art Nouveau and the dimension and frilliness of the poppies.

Messer, Jennifer - Sponsor's Choice
Norwalk, Iowa
Ephemeral Memories
I named this quilt "Ephemeral Memories," just as memories of lives lost during World War I have disappeared with the passing of my grandparents' generation. Those memories are found only in history archives today. The poppy in the middle of the quilt is surrounded by crosses. Some of the crosses are obvious, but some are buried in the stitching like the 368 American lives lost and buried in the Flanders Field

Mezerkor, Diane
Hollister, California
Remember
As a child, I remember going with my mother to sell poppies to raise money for the veterans. I know this originated from World War I, but she told me about family and friends lost in World War II and how we need to remember their sacrifice. Thank you to all our veterans.

Miller Jones, Susanne
Potomac Falls, Virginia
Poppies Are a Work of Art
Poppies are a work of art. Their bright colors draw me to them. Maybe it goes back to my love for "The Wizard of Oz" or my respect for soldiers who gave their lives for us. Whatever the reason, they show up in my art again and again. Long ago, I made a poppy stained-glass window for our first home. When I made a quilt for our bed, I chose poppies. They represent hope and renewal.

Miller, Laurie
Rolla, Missouri
Pappy's Poppies
I saw the grey and thought about a mockingbird to go along with the red poppies. My husband is a bird enthusiast and a pappy, hence the name "Pappy's Poppies".

Mitchell, Constance
Chardon, Ohio
Poppies Remind Us to Never Forget
As a youngster, the old man's poppy field was as far as I was allowed to go. The old man was a veteran who always sat in his porch chair to watch his red poppies stand at attention and wave in the breeze to remind us to "never forget." As a high school band member, I collected donations for veterans in exchange for a paper poppy. I went to the old veteran's house. For his donation, I gave him two poppies to thank him for his service. My poppy design is from that veteran's poppy field: Some small, some huge, and some are just in bud. Poppies remind us not to forget the sacrifices made to protect our freedom.

Mitchell, Kathleen

Long Valley, New Jersey

View From a Window

"Poppy Field in a Hollow Near Giverny" by Claude Monet (1885) is on view behind the attached carved wooden screen, which lifts to escape its confines within. The quilt of rolling hills is framed with a flange and pintuck binding, while the seed stitches change colors in step formation with the wooded hillside and lush fields. I wanted to create a realistic view of Monet's impressionist poppy field artwork. Releasing the dragon's toothy grip of the scarlet rope allows the viewer to raise the screen, imagining the open air carrying its earthy scent to the window's sill.

Monks, Margo

Madison, Alabama

One of Love and One of Remembrance

My uncle, Staff Sergeant Darrell V. Parrott, perished in World War II when the B-24 Boomerang II went down off the coast of Texel Island, Netherlands. My initial idea was to write a letter from Uncle Vernon to his wife, Marie. I found this difficult. Next I decided on a fictitious English soldier from World War I who could reference the poem, "In Flanders Fields," its author Dr. McCrae, and soldiers sending home pressed poppies. After finishing the letter from Clarence, I decided to bring this story to the present day with a letter between the cousins. This allowed for information on wearing the poppy on National Poppy Day and to remind folks to pass the tradition of remembrance to their children. The large poppy, the wearable poppy and the cross evolved from writing the letters.

Muench, Joanne

Cochrane, Wisconsin

Remembering the Past

I always knew the connection between John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" and its inspiration for the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. I hoped to portray in fabric and thread the image he paints in his poem of the graves of the fallen soldiers that lie in Flanders amongst the poppy fields.

Myers, Cindy - Staff Choice
Ontario, California
Art Coming to Life
I envisioned a piece of art transforming into life and spilling off the page. I choose a stained glass hanging as my art piece, which starts to change from the stained glass to a field of poppies and becoming beautiful three-dimensional flowers. The hardest part was to figure out how to make the flowers: you can heat children's play foam sheets and form it to the shape you want. When cooled it will remain in the shape formed. I now have a new technique for future compositions.

Nausley, Kathy - THIRD PLACE
Festus, Missouri
Never to Be Forgotten
Looking through an old dusty box of family photos, I came across long forgotten pictures of Harold Lee Warinner, who served in World War I from 1917 to 1919. Using John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Field" as an inspiration, I chose the faded photos to represent WWI. The present is shown with the bright colorful poppies in the beautiful Cherrywood reds, floating memories over the past, forever representing all who have served for our country. This Cherrywood challenge touched me personally as I sewed, thinking about the young man in the pictures—more than a 100 years ago now, never to be forgotten for future generations.

Noll, Charlotte
Lauderhill, Florida
Modern Skinny Strips Study
I recently learned to make modern improv-pieced skinny strips and wanted to practice making them for this challenge. I think I made a million and can now sew them in my sleep. I made one large poppy with a hand-embroidered center in a green grass background. All challenge fabrics were used. I big-stitch hand quilted with eight colors of variegated and solid Sue Spargo Eleganza #8 thread. This took forever, and I loved every minute!

Nordlin, Stephanie
Tucson, Arizona
Breezy Day for Picking Poppies
My flowers are the Oriental poppy. Having previously made Matilija, Mexican, and California poppies in a 3D format, I felt this challenge was chosen for me. I had learned the stiffening process I use holds up well to traveling.

O'Brien, Kerry
Concord, California
A Poppy Sunrise
The colors of the challenge fabric made me think of sunrise over Mount Diablo, located near where I live in Concord, California. I challenged myself to create this quilt with only the fat quarter bundle. I made the poppies of numerous Dresden plate blocks, which I love making. To create the background, I drew the design onto interfacing and then used a paper-piecing technique to add the fabric. I tried several new techniques while making this quilt, including quilting the background before adding the appliquéd poppies. I also layered multiple Dresden plates onto each other to create the poppies. Inspired by woodblock prints, I added embroidery to highlight the poppies and added quilting lines using free motion and walking foot techniques. I had a lot of fun!

O'Brien, Marcy
Bedminster, New Jersey
Remembrance Day
My quilt was inspired by William Morris Arts & Crafts embroidered fire screens. The design evolved into a quilted war monument. Poppies are the central motif, symbolizing remembrance. To represent resilience and rebirth over time, I used the poppy's various stages of budding. The flowers intertwine with a gray circle that divides the space and references war monuments with carved funeral wreaths. On its perch are bright red cardinals, sometimes thought to symbolize communication with the spirit of a loved one who has passed. Finally, I used echo quilting to further emphasize the passage of time, as it reminded me of the rings of a tree or the ripples of a pebble thrown in a lake.

Ott, Patricia

Wasilla, Alaska

Poppies of Flanders Field

The poem "In Flanders Field" was used as a backdrop to my design to remind viewers why poppies honor veterans. Along with the poppies I wanted to illustrate the tragedies of war with the barbed wire in the field of crosses. I honor my father, father-in-law and many other family members who served in the armed forces with this in mind.

Palmer, Joy Finley

San Jose, California

Red Poppy

This was a challenge: I live in California where poppies are very common and are the state flower. We have LOTS of wonderful images of poppies in all sorts of environments. HOWEVER, California poppies are orange.

Parker, Jaya

Hermann, Missouri

Row on Row

Poppies honor American Great War doughboys. The largest American military cemetery in Europe is Meuse-Argonne, where there are thousands of crosses. The emblems represent the American Expeditionary Force, the armies, corps, and divisions, and the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart. No one returned from that war. Those returning were different people. The mud, trenches, artillery, poison gas, machine guns, barbed wire, fear, and death burned them away like a moth in a candle flame. When did you get back? In truth, you never did. That's why old men asked, even when passing a lifetime later, to be laid to rest in France with their fallen brothers on the battlefield of their youth. Those visiting the cemetery in the 1920s and 1930s were women. Their husbands, fathers, and sons were already there. Those women handmade poppies of fabric, then and now, to honor those they lost who lie in France, row on row.

Patterson, Lorraine
Cedar Glen, California
Coquelicots de Mémoire
"In Flanders Fields" was penned by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae following the death of one of his Canadian comrades. I wanted a somewhat primitive look. I used the pixel postage stamp squares to depict the blood soaked, blooming poppy field. Then I framed the bottom of the project with a close-up grouping of stylized poppies. The shadow figure, cross, and planes represent the memories of lost soldiers. Finally, I knew the poem was mandatory. This is my first time entering a contest. I truly enjoyed the process.

Patterson, Taylor & Julie - Youth Award
Pixelated Poppy
Pixelated Poppy is like taking Minecraft and wrapping it in a cozy quilt! I designed this quilt using Electric Quilt 8. The focus is on the giant poppy flower with bright red petals and green leaves that look like they're moving in front of the poppyseed background. Each tiny mosaic tile of this quilt brings a piece of the game into our world—built block by block just like in Minecraft. When you look at "Pixelated Poppy," you're not just seeing a quilt, you're seeing Minecraft magic mixed with real-life fabric to bring you a beautiful flower.

Paulett, Beth
Madison, Alabama
Uncle Michael
Dedicated to my Great-uncle Micheal Mance and the men who died during Exercise Tiger in World War II. On the evening of April 28, 1944, on a practice run for D-Day, the Allied convoy was torpedoed by a German S-boat cruising the area of Slapton Sands, England. Due to a miscommunication between British and U.S. forces, the convoy was never warned S-boats were in the area. Strict orders were given to seal information on the mission to protect D-Day. Michael's mother and family were told he was missing and did not know how he died until 2011.

Pennywitt, Sarah
Newbury Park, California
Through My Daughter's Eyes
My daughter is my inspiration! I wanted to do this quilt with her and asked her to design it. After I gave her the colors and instructions, she gave me a beautiful challenge! Now I had the opportunity to bring her design to life in fabric. We see this as a window, which I believe shows great hope for the future of this art form.

Perendy, Evelyn
Braintree, Massachusetts
Life and Death
To me, the poppy's symbolism of death and beauty lies in its delicate petals and vibrant colors. In this juxtaposition of life and death, there is a profound appreciation for the fragility and resilience of existence. This simple coexistence further inspired me to use a simplified image.

Perkins, Janet L.
Pittsboro, North Carolina
Imperial Red
Years ago, my family and I visited Belgium and were deeply moved by a cold, rainy day spent on the site of the battle that inspired John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." To this day, when I think of poppies, I recall that day and the symbolism of these beautiful flowers. This was my inspiration for this project, which started with a wonderful original photograph by my friend, the talented Paul Cox. Using Paul's photo as a guide (with his permission), I quilted the flower with deep reds and dark accents, on a bed of green, including crosses as both a design element and for their meaning Finally, I included the poem to remind the viewer to never forget the sacrifices of those who gave all.

Petersen, Ann
Aurora, Colorado
Petal Pusher
The large poppy design is a pattern I created several years ago, combining hand appliqué and paper piecing using freezer paper. It is quilted with each petal in a different quilting design. The petals are highlighted and shaded with textile paint. The stemmed poppies are flying geese with machine-embroidered stems.

Piasta, Dawn - Juror's Choice
Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada
Blooms of Hope
Amidst the strife, a nation's might, blooms of resilience, pure and bright. The poppy flowers symbolize blood of the fallen and serve as a reminder of the beauty of life amidst the devastation of war. I dedicate this bouquet of poppies to humanity by offering hopefulness amid life's trials. The vibrant blooms dispel darkness and whisper untold tales of resilience while serving as a reminder hope can see us through. With colours ranging from vibrant red to muted green, these poppies embody the essence of nature's strength and endurance, radiating serenity and inspiring viewers to persevere.

Pierce, Suzan
Pendleton, Indiana
Lest We Forget
My design is based on the crosses used to mark American graves in Flanders Field and the beautiful poppies that grew there. "Lest We Forget" is a reminder of the sacrifices made by so many—both then and now—to secure world peace.

Poko, Cynthia - Staff Choice
Manchester, New Jersey
P Is for Poppy
I had been helping teach the alphabet to my young grandson while considering the design for this challenge. It seemed fitting to highlight the letter P and to use various techniques to display this simple yet beautiful flower. I began with the center block, then developed the surrounding squares including a scene from a favorite childhood movie.

Polavarapu, Lisbeth
Cupertino, California
Shades of Red
Inspired by cross-stitching patterns, I wanted to play with the idea of making an image of poppies using very small pieces of fabric. I cut one-inch square pieces of fabric and laid them out on a grid, then carefully pieced them together one by one. I am fascinated by how the quilt looks more realistic from a distance and gets more abstract and pixelated the closer you get to it. From a distance it looks complex, but up close it is simple. Just like a field of flowers is made up of hundreds of individual blooms. The vibrant colors help the image come to life.

Ponischil, Karen
Charlotte, North Carolina
Stronger Than Realized
Still beautiful after weathering the storms of life.

Pophal, Michelle - FIRST PLACE
Braintree, Massachusetts
A Salute of Honor
As memories fade and time passes, we still pay homage to those who came before us. Poppies are known worldwide as a symbol of remembrance, explicitly in regards to veterans and honoring their service. Poppies have the resilience to thrive through harsh conditions, like soldiers in battle, and hold the significance of commemorating our loved ones. My Grandpa was a World War II veteran, and I chose to use his likeness as the individual saluting. He fades into the poppies, revealing a sense of tribute. The other individuals are in silhouette, indicating they are gone but not forgotten. By saluting the others, he acknowledges those who came before him, even looking up at them as if holding them in high esteem. Though they may be people we never met, there is importance in honoring them.

Ramsey, Florann
Los Angeles, California
Poppy the Octopus's Garden in the Shade
My Dad used to say, "When at first you don't succeed, try again." This was the case with my first two design ideas. I could not make them work, and was lying in bed, and the octopus's garden in the shade came to me and seemed like a possibility using the grey fabrics. Little did I know how much fun this theme would become! My goal was to create a wow factor and design something no one else might think of doing. I hope it will be unique to the contest and add a bit of whimsy! I asked my six-year-old grandson what I should name the octopus: so | present to you Poppy!

Randall, Lynn
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Poppies Remember
I wanted to create the image of a brief summer shower falling softly across a serene landscape. The long-forgotten barn sits quietly on the hilltop brightened only by the field of vibrant poppies that spill around it. The poppies remember.

Reeb, Tracy
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Soldiers in the Poppy Field
My family has a history of service to our country with active duty in World War II on the beaches of Normandy, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Each year my mother-in-law made sure we had poppies to wear to show we will never forget the veterans who helped make this country free. War is not neat. The raggy look of uniforms and the hearts of the soldiers, which I am sure got weary at times, can be seen with the raw-edge applique of the design and the soldier quilting in the background. The large poppy is for me, to always remember my family and friends who served with honor.

Ricci, Shelli - 9 For 9
Apple Valley, Minnesota
She Wore Many Hats
My Great-aunt Sal was a World War I bride; she was married on a Friday, and the following Sunday her sweetheart was deployed. Aunt Sal was like many women during the war, who not only continued their own jobs but also stepped up to fill jobs left behind by men fighting in the war. These industrious women wore many hats—they were seamstresses, factory workers, nurses, farmers and teachers. While the war raged, women worked, wrote letters and waited, hoping the war would end and their loved ones would come home. Some came home whole, some broken, others not at all. Aunt Sal's husband did come home, and she nursed him for several years until he died. Sal had an irrepressible spirit, always wore a hat, and smiled no matter what. Hats off to Aunt Sal and all the women who rose to the occasion and persevered!

Rieber, Sandi
Huxley, Iowa
Eternal Poppy
I have been sewing for almost 60 years, first with doll clothes as many people start, sewing clothes for my children, and then onto a dressmaking and alterations career. I began quilting about ten years ago and found traditional quilting bored me, even though I love looking at and touching them. Art quilting has become my latest adventure in fabric. I had three quilts published in an art quilting magazine and have taught classes. As a Midwest resident, I love to travel to all ends of our beautiful country and am inspired by the photos I take.

Riess, Sheila - Sponsor's Choice
Ellicott City, Maryland
Poppy Nouveau
On a recent trip to Italy I saw green fields full of beautiful red poppies everywhere I went. While surrounded by art and sculptures, I thought of the Cherrywood Challenge throughout my trip. How could I relay the beauty and joy of the poppy? What did poppies really mean to me? When I really thought about poppy flowers I immediately thought of Art Nouveau, and specifically, my idol Alphonse Mucha who singlehandedly started the movement and is still studied and copied today. His use of line work and textures has inspired my quilting style. By using a satin stitch around my fabric pieces, I have emulated the strong lines he used to accentuate his drawings. I have quilted organic shapes to echo the Art Nouveau feel of flora and fauna. I've added a beautiful woman with long, flowing hair (a Mucha trademark) crowned with a wreath of poppies.

Riesterer, Linda
Wenatchee, Washington
Art Nouveau Poppy
The flowing lines of Art Nouveau style are well suited to showcase a brilliant red poppy with a palette of more muted supporting colors.

Ritter, Cora

Urbandale, Iowa

Poppies Behind Bars

I interpreted the challenge as it relates to my personal and professional career. This quilt represents the "fallen" due to opiate overdose. I read in a letter written to heroin, "I was blinded by your beauty." The author did not survive. As a military veteran prescribed opiates, I nearly fell myself. Now as a therapist and substance abuse counselor, I cannot unsee this poppy/heroin connection. I chose to represent addiction and mental health behind bars. You'll see an image of a person behind bars, along with one hand pointing toward a darkened poppy seed pod in the lower right shadow. The person is sickly, discolored, with no face to represent all addicted persons past and present. This is to bring awareness to those incarcerated with addiction and a lack of therapeutic support. The fabric was embellished only with archival black ink.

Ross, Elaine

Batavia, New York

Modern Poppies

I wanted to portray a modern image of simplicity and open space. I also wanted to use circles to portray my poppies, so I cut various sizes and colors, layering some, and just one layer on others. I added couched cording to portray the simple stems. Continuing to the background, I used the remaining colors for a Drunkard's Path pattern, so as your eye travels across the quilt, it appears to be all circles. I kept the quilting simple to not interfere with the poppies or muddle the background.

Ryle, Laura

Santa Cruz, California

My Father, My Hero

My quilt was made in remembrance of my father, Walter John Jr., who was born in 1924 and drafted into the Army during World War II. He served in the 69th Infantry Division under General George Patton. His unit traversed Europe, and he was awarded the Bronze Star in 1945 for outstanding and meritorious service. He went on to earn his PhD in physics, marry, and have four children. In his later years, his Bronze Star became one of his most prized possessions. My father was 99 years old when he passed away in April 2023.

Salzman, Pauline

Gulfport, Florida

Flanders Field

In the tradition of folk artist Harriet Powers, I try to make quilts to tell a story; it just can't always be another pretty picture. I need to learn something or sometimes just have fun. I would like you to view my quilts on two levels: The first being the overall view itself, and the second the quilting. I like to give you something to think about.

Sawatzky, Susan

Nordland, Washington

Poppies In the Field

With all the talk about artificial intelligence, I decided to try my hand at designing using AI. My prompt was simple, "Poppies in a field of green grass." I then had to recreate the design in fabric. I'm very pleased with the result.

Schmidt, Elizabeth
Englewood, Florida
Remembering Flanders Fields
My inspiration was "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Using artistic license, I substituted Icelandic poppies (yellow centers) for the traditional Flanders poppy (Papaver Rhoeas, dark centers). Like the poem, this piece is meant to honor the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in battle and to maintain their legacy. The complete poem is printed on the back of the piece.

Scott, Gayle and Coleen
Redding, California
Tall Poppy
In Australia and New Zealand, "tall poppy" is a metaphor for someone who stands out from the crowd. We thought this was a fitting title for our fashion illustration, a tall model in a couture poppy-covered gown. The composition is inspired by the art of Bil Donovan, a master fashion illustrator whose work has been featured in publications like *Vogue* and international fashion advertising campaigns. Poppy is wearing a gown with a beaded bodice and a full skirt covered in individually applied hand-painted flowers. Her look is finished with an oversized poppy headpiece and opera-length gloves. We are a mother and daughter creative team; Coleen usually designs the overall composition and completes any drawing, painting, and fabric preparation, while Gayle lends her handwork, beading, and quilting skills to complete the finished art quilt.

Seevers, Tina
Lexington, Kentucky
Beauty Rising
When I saw the poppies, I immediately wanted to look deeper. Flowers have long been symbols of joy, sorrow, suffering, and triumph. “Beauty Rising” came about because without the bombs that tore into the ground of fields across Europe, there would not have been the proliferation of poppies to mark the heroic efforts of the soldiers who perished. It is important to remember the pain and heartache that has made beauty and joy a part of my life today.

Setla, Karen

Indian River, Michigan

It's All About the Shoes

My first impression of poppies is Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" walking in the poppy field, wearing the most beautiful shoes I had ever seen. This classic movie made quite an impression on my childhood. Ask yourself: what characters, scenes, or songs do you remember? Did these images make you laugh, sing, or were some scenes scary? The tornado gave me nightmares for years. I hope this quilt makes you smile and brings back memories of watching Dorothy with her companions, skipping her way to Emerald City in her dazzling ruby red slippers. Even to this day, it is always about the shoes!

Shaw, Susan

Chantilly, Virginia

Poppy Fields

"In Flanders Fields the poppies grow, Between the crosses, row on row" begins a poem by a World War soldier and surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. The poppy became a tradition to honor and remember soldiers and also became a symbol of hope for peace. I chose to create this scene from Afghanistan, where soldiers are seen on patrol amid poppy flowers destined for drug cartels, not knowing where they might meet danger. The fragile poppies in all their beauty are set against the backdrop of war and drugs, a desolate landscape and the great sacrifice that these soldiers made. The poppies remind me I am grateful for the freedoms I enjoy and the many places in our world where hope for peace is so needed.

Sickle, Shawn

Richmond, Texas

Blossoming

This year's fabrics inspired me to create an abstract interpretation of a poppy, and I loved the creative process as much as working with the fabric to make the design come to life. I began by drawing my design in Procreate on my iPad and then I had Office Depot print a scaled version so I could begin producing the appliqué elements. I played with Applipiecing, hand appliqué with prepared edge, raw-edge appliqué, some dimensional appliqué, embroidery, beading, hot fix crystals, as well as hand quilting and machine quilting. I enjoy a challenge because it is a platform for growth and expansion! I named my quilt "Blossoming" because I tried so many techniques and felt I was blossoming in my quilting journey.

Slocum, Ann

Paradise, California

Blooming Again

I have always loved flowers and color. To me the flower symbolizes hope, joy, resilience and a new beginning. When the Camp Fire raged through Paradise and decimated our town, I tried to tell myself, "We will bloom again." In early spring, I saw a bit of green poking through the dirt and ash. It was a flower, a daffodil. I smiled and thought, yes we will bloom again, and we are doing just that. I have made several flower wall hangings since that day. They remind me of the joy of creating what I love.

Smith, Emily N. - Juror's Choice
Pasadena, California
The World Within a Poppyseed
I have always been drawn to the imaginative minds of Surrealist artists. Thinking of the vivid colors and psychoactive properties of poppies, I was inspired to create my own Surrealist painting, imagining the expansive world within a tiny poppyseed. I finished the edge of the quilt without visible binding to mimic a painted canvas without a frame. With this challenge, I chose to showcase texture and color by using several quilting styles and fabric modification techniques. This quilt utilizes more than fifteen different techniques, including chenille, shadowfolding, furrowing, multiple styles of appliqué and embroidery, foundation paper piecing, trapunto, and more. Dimensional painting added a final touch of depth and definition.

Smith, Gail
Seabrook, Texas
Remembrance
My husband and I traveled to Ypres in the Spring of 2023, and I knew I wanted to do something in remembrance of the World War I allies. I designed the pattern to highlight the crosses amidst the checkerboard fields of poppies. I added wool appliqué, hand embroidery and beading to compliment the patchwork. I also wanted to honor John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" by stitching the title at the top of the work. This is my first juried project, is a work of love and was created from the profound experience I had visiting these Belgium sites.

Smith, Laureen

Dover, Delaware

11th Hour on the 11th Day of the 11th Month

When I was young, veterans handed out paper poppies at every parade to remind us of those who gave all. Over the years, fewer veterans distributed them. This quilt shows how vivid those memories are at first glance, like the bottom of the quilt. There are bright spots and great detail. The images really stand out with dimension. Then, they fade away over time to just words, like the top of the quilt. Let's not forget the sacrifice and why it was made for us to be free.

Snow, Karen

Galesburg, Illinois

Take Me Home

We had a large number of poppies along the driveway on the farm where I grew up. I, like Dorothy, want to return home and relive my joyous childhood. I found the limited number of fabrics to be so challenging! I decided to challenge myself in ways other than color. I wanted to use a newfound love of wool felting in my quilt; and I wanted to see how many techniques I could use. My attempt at couching fuzzy yarn on the stems of the poppies may have failed (I touched the yard too long with an iron), but | think my 3D poppies worked. And I love my felted lion! I used three techniques I'd never tried before.

Snow, Sandi - Honorable Mention
Land O' Lakes, Florida
Lest We Forget
I remember as a child receiving a red poppy lapel flower at the Memorial Day parade in our small town. I'm sure I didn't understand the reason but everyone was proud to display their poppy and so was I. Earlier this year, I had an opportunity to visit the U.S. cemetery in Normandy, France. Area shop owners sell numerous wearable and collectable products featuring the poppy. As we visited a number of towns, I was surprised to be thanked several times for what the U.S. sacrificed during the war. The residents of the Normandy region have not forgotten. "Lest We Forget" is a depiction of a soldier in front of a stained-glass window, reflecting with admiration for all who serve.

Soules, Jan
Elk Grove, California
Poppy Valley
The sun shines on this idyllic setting in southern France as the red poppies sparkle over the beautiful countryside. Enter the poppy valley and immerse yourself in this wonderland of red!

Spence, Anita
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
My Peaceful Garden
The inspiration for my quilt came from pictures I took of giant poppies in my garden to share with my mom during my evening call to her. I tried to capture the many shapes and shades the flowers take as they dance in the breeze. I made the poppy in the foreground three-dimensional using some left over water-soluble stabilizer to shape the petals. A small yo-yo for the developing seed pod is embellished with beads and some silk roving.

St. Clair, Lori - FOURTH PLACE

Napanee, Ontario, Canada

We Will Remember

A snare drummer in a military pipes-and-drums band and connected to the Canadian armed forces, for years I was on parade every Remembrance Day, November 11. The various-sized poppies represent wars and death. Grey poppies are historic wars. Smaller poppies, ever increasing in size as the years progress, are wars of the last century. The largest poppies symbolize wars of the 21st century. The two pods: forthcoming wars. The green bullets are from World War I. They illustrate renewed life and a field of grass. The pinstriped suit represents a veteran who each year remembers his comrades in arms and others who made the greatest sacrifice (this does not exclude the many women who also served and sacrificed). The tie is a trinity knot, as I believe fallen members are now resting safely in the embrace of the divine.

Stefan, Lisa

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mosaic Poppies

Poppies have always been one of my favorite flowers; growing up in California they were everywhere. I began my project by hand drawing my design on a poster board. I then broke the quilt down in two-inch squares and used a turned-under appliqué technique. I was inspired by the two grey-toned fabrics and thought they were a perfect backdrop to a mosaic style as it gave a tile-like impression to the design. My inspiration came from Timna Tarr's book, "Stitched Photo Mosaic Quilting". All piecing and quilting was done by machine. I used a clear monofilament thread for the appliqué and Aurifil thread for topstitching. Lastly, I added black glass beads to the centers of the poppies to create more interest.

Sterna, Alicia
Surprise, Arizona
Circle of Life
As a volunteer interpretive ranger for the U.S. Forest Service on the Oregon coast, for six years I gave talks to the public about forest succession. The challenge reminded me of those talks as I contemplated the poppy being one of the first plants to reemerge after the devastation of the trench warfare of World War I in Europe. I named this quilt as a reminder Mother Nature still wins.

Strebeck, Kathleen
Des Peres, Missouri
Poppy: Magnified
Peaceful poppies have been a favorite flower of mine since I first enjoyed seeing them in my grandma and mom's gardens. However, my favorite vantage point of the poppy has always been up close and personal, as their internal biological structure is fascinating. This view of the poppy inspired me. I used Cherrywood fabrics, Mistyfuse fusible, and lots of thread to compose this magnified view of the common poppy. (Inspiration photo credit: David April, dreamstime.com)

Sutherland, Betty
Lavigne, Ontario, Canada
In the Rain
I was inspired by the poppy umbrellas sold at the In Flanders Fields Museum (a World War I commemoration in Ypres, Belgium). The big poppy umbrellas are bright and beautiful. The quiet and peace of the rain while strolling through the poppy meadow and birch trees under the umbrella is calming.

Swanson, Brooke

Houston, Texas

Peacefully

While attending last year's International Quilt Festival, my daughter and I were inspired to participate in this year's theme. As we learned more about poppies, we found our vision leaning toward how they represent the resilience to persevere through darkness and despair. In respect of Remembrance Day, we created a large bouquet of 3D poppies, positioned in the pocket of a poppy-quilted suit jacket, portraying a person attending the funeral of a fallen loved one. Embroidered along the outside is an original poem: "Remember me, in fields where I can dream. And I may sleep there gracefully. Bury me in Red and Blue and Cream where I may rest now peacefully."

Swearingin, Pam

Sunset Beach, North Carolina

Homecoming

My quilt is based on a photo of my grandparents after my grandpa returned home from World War I. Grandpa served in the 37th Division, which was sent to France and then Belgium. My family has a set of maps showing the routes his division traveled through France and Belgium. I used a portion of one of the maps on the quilt. The background is to represent the trenches and harsh conditions of the western front. A remembrance poppy wreath surrounds the map to honor those lost in the World War.

Swinhoe, Claire

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Prisoner's Poppies

I made this hand-appliqued quilt in honor of my Great Uncle Geoffrey. It depicts the view from his prison cell, looking at poppy fields and praying for rescue. Geoffrey was captured at Dunkirk during World War II and held in solitary confinement for three years in a prisoner of war camp. There was little food and no communication with fellow prisoners or the outside world. There were many grey days cheered up by the poppies. To stop himself going mad, he composed music in his mind and scratched music notes on his cell walls. During those years as a prisoner of war, his family received no word if he was dead or alive. His fiancée, Evelyn, had to wait until nearly the end of the war to know if he survived. He did survive but came back a very different person. He died in 2013, aged 94.

Takahashi, Chiharu

Chofu-shi, Tokyo, Japan

Keshi

The Japanese word for poppy is keshi. The poppy flower is considered a symbol of a fantastic flower in Japan. This time I'm going to make a quilt. I'm going to layer this fantasy with images of flowers. I also added the Japanese name of the poppy flower in kanji.

Thompson, Cindy

Chowcilla, California

Poppy's Purple Heart

The red poppy is a symbol of both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future and support for the armed forces community. I chose to add the Purple Heart so we shall never forget those who sacrificed for our freedom.

Thompson, Kerry

Lefor, North Dakota

The Last March

Taking inspiration from images of poppies growing in the battlefield, I created this quilt to highlight the splashes of brilliant red and green colors the poppy brings to the devastation of a field after battle. A cluster of large poppies in front of the grey bricks of a trench wall shine above a miniaturized landscape of a poppy-filled battlefield with a soldier honoring the fallen at a battlefield cross. The title of my work is an allusion to fallen soldiers taking their final march and those left behind to remember them.

Thompson, Mary-Ellen

Frankford, Ontario, Canada

Last Letter Home

This quilt represents my family's story during World War I, when my grandfather was overseas and my grandmother had to take care of the farm. During this time, their first child was born, and my grandfather was missing in action for eight months after the armistice. In this quilt, the poppies play a subtle role. They grew in the trenches and were a small light of hope amidst a sea of despair. My grandfather is depicted reading a letter from home and praying for better days ahead. My grandmother is pictured reading a letter while sitting at her sewing machine. Her newborn daughter lay sleeping at her feet. The baby's blanket is a poppy design of redwork embroidery, popular in this era. The background of the quilt is quarter log cabin blocks, which were a favorite of my grandmother. The red hair of my grandparents and my aunt is a family trait!

Ticotsky, Lynn
Cincinnati, Ohio
A Poppy Portfolio
I used different parts of the poppy, taken from a botanical line drawing: the flower, the complex seed pod center, leaves, and finally pods in the process of opening. I abstracted them as design elements in an Art Deco format. I used simple edge "appliquéing" to attach each piece, then added sparkly trims and seed beads. I used Fabrico ink pens in a pointillist manner to indicate shading. All to enhance the simple design. I did not feel it needed complex quilting, as this would have distracted from the strong graphic presentation.

Todd, Charlotte (w/Tammy Vonderschmitt) - Youth Award
McKinney, Texas
Poppy Patchwork
My design for the poppy challenge is abstracted from a drawing I did. I'm almost thirteen years old, from Allen, Texas, and in the seventh grade. Since my Nana is a professional quilter, I have grown up around sewing and have made several small projects. This is my first quilt I made all by myself. I drew the design out, then traced the pieces to appliqué. Art is my favorite, and I have taken many art classes. My Nana showed me how to use the rotary cutter and the iron for the first time. The designing was my favorite part. I liked to problem solve and made the petals and leaves by piecing strips of fabric and then cutting out the shapes. Even though I have not lost relatives in a war, I can understand how devastating it could be. I am thankful for their service.

Tsubota, Alexandra
Torrance, California
Steampunk Poppy
It was hard to come up with a design that was a little bit different. I like the Steampunk aesthetic and when I saw some floral jewelry while browsing online, the idea to do a Steampunk-inspired poppy was born.

Tucker, Sharon
Lewisville, Texas
Iwo Jima
My first experience with remembrance poppies was at my small town's Memorial Day parade when the American Legion Women's Auxiliary was giving them out. My dad explained their meaning as a remembrance of soldiers who were lost in battle. Later I would find out more about war and his role as a medic in World War II on Iwo Jima island. The Japanese soldiers hid in underground caves and would attack any time of day or night.

Tyler, Linda
Katy, Texas
Remembrance
My piece is a scrapbook page about the battle. The photo section in the top right has an image of the actual map used by the Navy for planning the attack, the raising of the flag photo taken by Joe Rosendahl, and my handsome dad in his uniform. The stripes and red background in that section mimic the Iwo Jima Commemorative Medal.

Velis, Arlene
Tehachapi, California
Blissful Sleep
The green area of my piece represents the water surrounding the island and the quilting lines mimic a naval map's grid. The grey-on-grey section in the middle is a cross-section of the island depicting the caves, and the red areas represent the blood shed there. The poppies remind me of the simple crepe paper ones given out when I was a child. The numbers represent lives lost (6,140 Americans and 22,000 Japanese) and the 36 days of battle.

Verbeke, Katherine
Tucson, Arizona
Isabella's Poppy
The phrase "never forget" is one my dad uttered when he spoke about any of the wars or battles, but especially the one that changed his life forever.

Vokoun, Denise
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota
To Those They Left Behind
Poppies remind me of Memorial Day; the day to remember the heroes who gave their all for our freedom. They bravely left their families to serve our country. Little did they know they would not return, and it would be their family who would receive a Gold Star. My heart goes out to the loved ones left behind. The petals in my quilt fall like the bittersweet teardrops of those who have lost a family member giving their life to defend our country. Yet, we know it was their calling, their strong belief in freedom and liberty that gave them the courage to take a stand. My quilt reminds us to remember those who died and also to those they left behind.

Vough, Cindy
Ashburn, Virginia
Glacier Poppy
My quilt was inspired by my photo of a poppy along the road in Glacier National Park. The challenge was getting a design with sufficient contrast to make the image interesting.

Wahlstedt, Sara

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Remembrance

The poem "In Flanders Field" was my inspiration for this quilt: rows of crooked crosses, shadows of fallen heroes, red poppies sprinkled with black powder. The background fabric is printed with the poem. The red poppies and the greenery are all sprinkled with gunpowder. This effect was accomplished using paint and black thread. By using black thread in my bobbin and adjusting the tension so the black thread came through to the front, it gave a speckled look. Thread painting and beading gave dimension to the poppies. A soldier and crooked crosses were quilted in the background with invisible thread.

Walters, Heather

Auburn, Maine

Shadows

"We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw the sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields." This quilt shows shadows passing in front of the sunset, behind a field of poppies. A young girl looks over the scene and back into a history she does not fully understand. The beauty of the poppies and the sunset contrast with dark forms walking on the ridge in a field of remembrance. Since starting my quilting journey in early 2022, this is the first art quilt I have completed. When I saw the challenge theme my thoughts immediately went to this design. With no experience with appliqué, I was unsure of my ability to execute and am quite excited with how the project came together utilizing significant thread painting to add details.

Walther, Julianne - Honorable Mention
Cary, North Carolina
97-Year Poppy
Red is simply not my go-to color, so I felt this challenge, where half the allowable fabrics were from the red family, would certainly stretch me! My poppy is a reproduction of a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe called "Red Poppy" (1927). Here, nearly a hundred years later, the beauty of the poppy remains relevant and stunning. I utilized my own photo-to-quilt techniques to appliqué the flower in layers. I machine quilted my poppy quilt using my domestic sewing machine and several different colors of cotton thread. I chose to embellish my quilt with UV-activated resin resembling dew drops on the flower petals. I added French knots as anthers on the stamens. The perfection and beauty of the natural world never cease to impress!

Ward, Maggie
Warrenton, Virginia
Night Shift
This quilt was inspired by a piece of weaving I purchased in Bayeux, France, during the 2018 Cherrywood trip to Europe. The scenic town, located near the place where the World War I poem "In Flanders Fields" was written, was full of poppy souvenirs. In a small linen shop I found the pillow cover that inspired this piece. I love the idea of garden fairies tending their flowers in the moonlight. I fused gold netting over the sage fabric to make my fairy, the water droplets are Swarovski crystals, and the moss is needle felted.

Weichselbaum, Enid Gjelten
Rochester, Minnesota
A Pop of
My field of poppies is rendered as if slightly out of focus. Patches of fabric like paint chips reveal the varied colors that make up the field.

Wellen, Patricia
Double Oak, Texas
Be Bold! Be Brave!
Be bold! Be brave! This is what the red poppy shouts as it stands among the greenery. It wears its colors as a symbol of remembrance for those who gave all to preserve our freedom and reminds us to live our lives as boldly and bravely as those men and women who gave their lives to preserve democracy.

White, Heather
Hoover, Alabama
We Will Remember Them
I come from a family with a long history of military service, so when I learned the theme of the challenge, I felt compelled to participate. I have never done anything like this before; I'm a beginner quilter (and also not very artistic), so I spent quite a bit of time online and at my local library researching techniques (and practicing) before I started the quilt. The lone soldier wears the uniform of the Great War (World War I). He is weary, but as he looks out over the fields he draws strength and hope from the rising sun and the glorious poppies that stretch out around him. I hope the viewer gets a sense of the enormity of the sacrifices that were made. With this quilt, I wanted to honor those who gave all in defense of freedom. We will—and do—remember them.

Williamson, Rosanne
Warrenton, Virginia
Schwarzer Drachen: Black Dragon Poppy
Poppies come in many striking varieties, colors and sizes. My favorite is the Schwarzer Drachen or Black Dragon poppy. With shades of the darkest red, it seems to breathe fire. My quilt has a baby dragon coming from the dragon poppy, both bringing dark impressions of flames, poison, death, and destruction. In the immortal words of the Wicked Witch of the West in the1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," "And now my beauties, something with poison in it, I think. With poison in it, but attractive to the eye, and soothing to the smell."

Wilson, Cindy - 9 For 9
Elysian, Minnesota
The Shattering of War
My daughter and I took many photographs in rural towns and World War I cemeteries across northern France during October 2023. A dozen or so of those photos were printed onto the lightest grey fabric, then cut into triangular shapes to represent the shattering —shards—of war. Each photo was manipulated to be faint and thus invoke the ghostly effects that linger across the region, more than a century after the war's end. Some of the shard photos are properly oriented, while others are rotated into unnatural positions to represent the upheavals and destruction of WWI. Three of the shards contain verses from the poem "In Flanders Fields," now out of copyright.

Wisheropp, Lori
Sacramento, California
Burnt Log and New Growth
New life springs forth after the destruction of a fire, bringing hope for a bright future. My red poppies are a symbol as they grow strong in the protection of a burnt log. A stump in my backyard was used to imprint the annual growth rings of a log. Ironically, the painted grey fabric was then burned to reveal cracks and the effects of fire. The impression of distant trees was created by stamping painted twigs onto the cloudy sky brushed with de Colourant. Cherrywood's feathered selvages were perfect to create the texture of grasses and layering of the landscape. Snippets of red fabric and French knots were added in the distance to depict either a smoldering fire or a new poppy field.

Wooldridge, Laura
New Braunfels, Texas
PPP = Paper Pieced Poppies!
Inspired by prior years' challenges, I decided this was my year to enter! The fabrics were a dream to work with and I am so pleased with my results. Paper piecing gives me detailed results that are unmatched. Poppies are a beautiful choice for this challenge!

Wright, Sally

Huntsville, Alabama

In Flanders Fields the Poppies Blow

On the centenary of the beginning of World War I, the art installation "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" saw the moat of the Tower of London filled with thousands of ceramic poppies. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, the 888,246 hand-made ceramic poppies poured from a battlement window—the "Weeping Window" - to the moat. Installed by 21,688 volunteers, each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war. The image has stayed with me since 2014, and I was grateful for the opportunity to turn it into a quilt. The title comes from John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields," about the Belgian battleground where approximately 150,000 soldiers from both sides died.

Zeleznik, Barb

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Remembrance

Poppies remind me of the men and women who have fought and died for our country. I chose a single large poppy for the center of the quilt as I think it makes a larger visual impact than multiple smaller poppies would. This poppy is fused down and thread-painted to give it dimension. The boots, rifle, helmet, and dog tags are powerful symbols of a fallen soldier, and I wanted them central in the composition of the quilt, coming directly out of the middle of the flower. Seed pods for poppies fascinate me. I quilted them into the background and then used Inktense pencils on some to add color and dimension. Inktense pencils also were used on the helmet, rifle, and boots. Laces were added to the boots to give a realistic dimensional detail.

The Answer

by Lt. J. A. Armstrong of Wisconsin

In Flanders Field the cannon boom
And fitful flashes light the gloom;
While up above, like Eagles, fly
The fierce destroyers of the sky;
With stains the earth wherein you lie
Is redder than the poppy bloom
In Flanders Field.

Sleep on ye brave! The shrieking shell,
The quaking trench, the startling yell,
The fury of the battle hell
Shall wake you not; for all is well.

Sleep peacefully, for all is well.
Your flaming torch aloft we bear,
With burning heart an oath we swear
To keep the faith to fight it through
To crush the foe, or sleep with you
In Flanders Field