Bird Watching

inspired by Lise Bélanger: Behind the Seams
at the National Quilt Museum

Quilt: Zagzagel / Wisdom by Lise Bélanger
Guest Designer: Lise Bélanger

A self-taught quilter, Lise Bélanger is an accomplished textile artist right down to her fingertips, and the winner of international quilt contests.

Lise was born and raised in the charming town of Trois-Pistoles, Quebec, located on the southern shore of the St. Lawrence River. At an early age, she discovered her passion for creating and sewing. This passion led her to study fashion in Quebec City, to work as a tailor and seamstress for many of Canada’s major theatres, and to eventually create her own line of children’s clothing. After costume design and clothes confection, her undeniable talent and growing interest in the possibilities offered by fabric brought her to quilting. As time went by, her attraction to forms, colours and lighting in the creative process of textile art became her everyday motivation and she turned the page for good on the clothing industry. The call of creative freedom was too insistent to be repressed and ignored.

Find Lise Online:

Website: en.libexpression.com
Online shop: libexpression.com/produits/en
Etsy shop: etsy.com/ca/shop/LIBEXPRESSION
Facebook: libexpression
Pinterest: belanger0464
Instagram: libexpression

Watch Lise talk about her work in the latest episode of Quilt Museum TV

https://youtu.be/3-BNh9MY6ek?t=150
Inspiration

Lise Bélanger: Behind the Seams is on exhibit at the National Quilt Museum from April 19–June 18 in the Corner Gallery.

Drawing inspiration from the beauty of nature, Lise trusts the “here and now” and gets carried away without ever stopping to question her artistic instinct. She likes to picture her subjects close up, livening up every corner of the quilt, her hands dictated by sparks of creativity. Colours remain at the very centre of her artwork; colours she harmonizes meticulously, in minute detail. For Lise, precision is the key; a quilt must be as beautiful from afar as up close, must offer a satisfying contemplative experience from all angles. When she sews a new quilt for a contest, she always complies with finishing criteria. But with her everyday creations, which attract a much broader public, she lets her imagination take over to challenge and overstep the rules. She adds her unique unconventional finishing touch, the reflection of her very own “frame” of thought.

Go behind the seams and watch her artwork suddenly come to life through the interplay of fabric, texture, and thread—right before your eyes.
Sample Block: Bird Watching

- Size 10.5" x 10.5" (finishes 10" x 10")
- Supplies: iron, fusible web (Steam a Seam 12" x 12"), pencil, scissors, tweezers, Sharpie, clear plastic (cellophane or gallon-size Ziploc bag)

Required fabric:
- Background fabric – colors for gradation
- Fabric(s) for flower
- Fabric for cat and birds
1. Select fabrics to achieve a gradient effect from dark (top) to light (bottom) (diagram 1). *The sample uses five different batik fabrics for the background* (photo 1).

2. Cut 2 strips at 11" x 1.75" for the top and bottom.

3. Cut 8 strips at 11" x 1.5".

4. Sew all the strips in order with a 1/4" seam allowance, beginning and ending with the larger strips. *Center strips will finish 1" apart.*

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<th>Diagram 1</th>
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Preparation: Template

1. Print pages 9–11 and using paper scissors, cut out Pieces A, B, C, & D along the dashed blue lines.

2. Align Piece B over the gray area in Piece A, making sure that the lines match. Attach using clear tape.

3. As in step 2, align Piece D over the gray area in Piece C and attach with tape.

4. Tape Pieces A/B over the gray area in Pieces C/D.

5. Once the four pieces are assembled, the template should measure 11"x11" (photo 2).

6. Tape template and a piece of clear plastic to table. Using a Sharpie, trace the lines of the template onto the plastic (photo 3).
   
   TIP: If you don’t have cellophane or template material, you can cut open a clean, gallon-size Ziploc bag.

7. Pin pieced background to an ironing board or other heat-safe surface. Place plastic over the background and pin the top corners in place (photo 4).

   NOTE: You can use a light box instead of clear plastic to help with placing pieces.
Assembly

1. Print the pattern shapes on pages 12–13.
2. Tape pages to a table and lay the entire piece of fusible on top—paper side up—so you can see the shapes through the fusible.
3. Using a pencil, trace each shape onto the fusible along all solid and dashed lines (photo 5).
   \textit{The dashed line indicates where shapes overlap.}
4. Roughly cut out the shapes from the fusible, being sure to cut OUTSIDE of the drawn lines (photo 6, left).
   \textbf{TIP: To avoid stiffness, you can cut out some of the inside of the fusible shape before fusing it to the fabric (photo 6, right).}
5. Fuse all rough-cut shapes to the wrong side of the selected fabrics (photo 7).
6. Once cool, trim each shape carefully along the drawn line.
Assembly

7. Remove the paper backing from shape 1 (photo 8).

8. Lift clear plastic and set shape 1 in place using the template as a guide. Use tweezers if desired (photo 9).

9. Use iron to fuse shape 1 in place. **TIP: Don’t iron the plastic!!**

10. Repeat steps 7–9 with remaining shapes in numerical order. **Remember that shapes overlap.**

11. Once all pieces are fused in place, square finished block to 10.5"x10.5" (photo 10).

Finished? Furr-tastic!
Square should measure 1-inch

Cut out Pieces A, B, C, & D along blue dashed line, and assemble pattern to 11” square
- Tape Piece B over the gray area in Piece A
- Tape Piece D over the gray area in Piece C
- Tape Pieces A/B over the gray area in Pieces C/D

Pink dashed line: once fusing is finished, trim piece to 10.5”x10.5”
Pink dotted line: finished visible area of 10”x10”
Square should measure 1-inch

Blue dashed line: cut with paper scissors for pattern
Pink dashed line: once fusing is finished, trim piece to 10.5"x10.5"
Pink dotted line: finished visible area of 10"x10"

Tape over piece A
Tape over pieces C/D
Square should measure 1-inch

Blue dashed line: cut with paper scissors for pattern
Pink dashed line: once fusing is finished, trim piece to 10.5"x10.5".
Pink dotted line: finished visible area of 10"x10".

Tape over piece C

Tape under pieces A/B

Tape under piece D

Tape under pieces A/B
Pattern shapes are already reversed for double-sided interfacing. Cut one of each.
Pattern shapes are already reversed for double-sided interfacing. Cut one of each.

Square should measure 1-inch.

11 light purple

12 light purple

13 light purple

14 black

15 black

16 black

17 black

18 black
Several quilts from Round 1 made by Block of the Month members will be selected to display in our education hallway during Fall of 2019. Only quilts submitted before June 30, 2019 will be considered for the exhibit. For those still finishing their Round 1 quilts, there are still plenty of labels available!

- Register your finished quilt quiltmuseum.org/round1

In May, the National Quilt Museum’s Facebook page hit the milestone of 100,000 likes. Our fans love seeing our quilts and happenings. Please like and share our page to stay up to date.

- Become a fan facebook.com/NationalQuiltMuseum

Kids ages 7-17 will participate in the museum’s annual Quilt Camp later this month. Our Instagram followers will be able to see the kids working on their quilts... each participant will finish a small quilt in just four days!

- Follow on Instagram instagram.com/nationalquiltmuseum

There are lots of ways to support the National Quilt Museum. Some examples include becoming a member, donating quilts or supplies to our auction, or making a financial contribution.

- Get Involved quiltmuseum.org/getinvolved