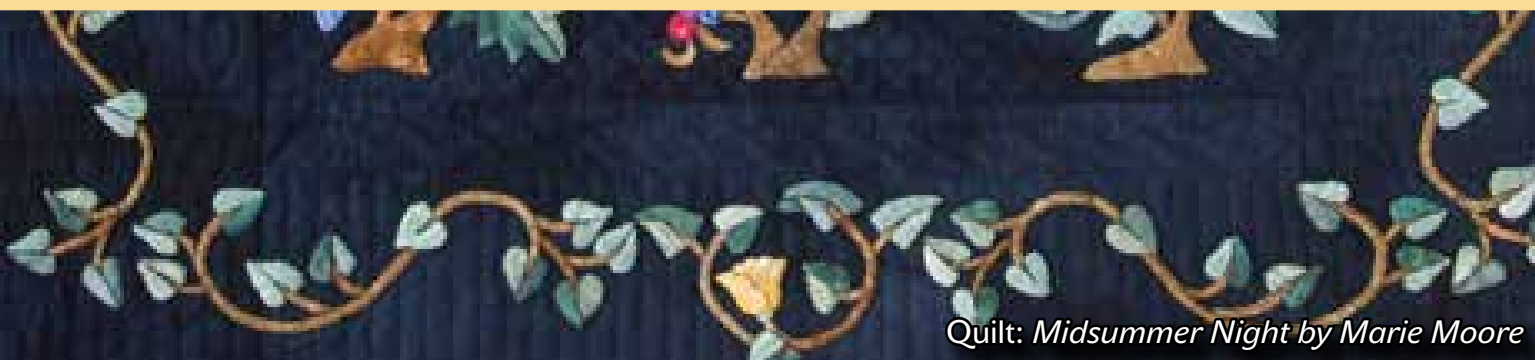


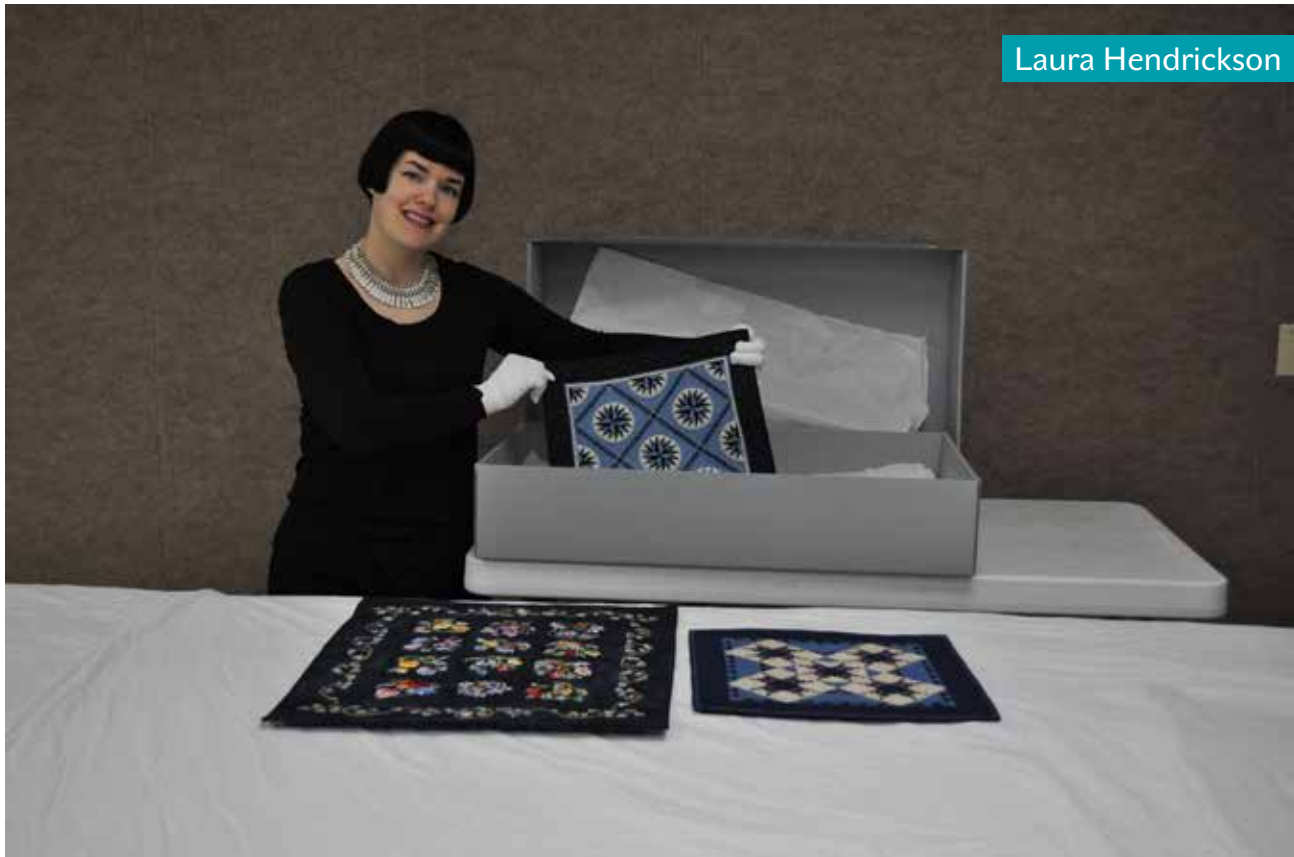
# A Midwinters Month's Block

inspired by *Stitched in All Sizes*  
at the National Quilt Museum





## Guest Designer: Laura Hendrickson



**Find Laura Online:**

Instagram: [@lauratheregistrar](https://www.instagram.com/lauratheregistrar)

As Registrar and Collections Manager at The National Quilt Museum, I have the honor of caring for the more than 650 quilts in the museum's collection as well as the hundreds more that rotate through our galleries each year. I work with our collections in depth, often having the opportunity to examine and study them at length. I've loved being able to connect with the art and artists in this way.

This exhibit is my dream exhibit: as a guest curator, I was able to design it based on my own interests, and what quilts I wanted to see together. I've been quilting since 2014, and between my daily work and my own quilting journey, it always comes back to the miniatures! I am awestruck by quilts of all sizes, but small quilts fascinate me the most.



# Inspiration

The current exhibit *Stitched in All Sizes* features a selection of quilts from the museum's collection showcasing artistry on both ends of the scale, from our smallest miniature (3.75 inches!) to our largest bed-sized quilts, and highlighting the connections between them. Some of the pairs and groupings are by the same artist; one set is from a husband and wife; some are scaled versions of classic blocks; some of them just seemed to me like they wanted to share a wall together.

One pair of quilts in particular helped form the idea for this exhibit: both titled *A Midwinter Night's Dream*, by Nancy Ann Sobel (pictured below).



99" x 99", 1988



17 ½" x 17 ½", 1990

Nancy was an award-winning quilter renowned for her hand workmanship. After the completion of the larger *A Midwinter Night's Dream*, Nancy challenged herself to miniaturize it, and "What a wonderful and encouraging process it turned out to be!"

What I love about comparing these two quilts is how she was able to maintain the same level of interest and detail by using different techniques. For example, the border flowers that are appliquéd in the larger quilt are re-created with sections of lace-like appliqué flowers and embroidery stitches in the smaller version.

For February's Block, we're going to take this one step further, and re-miniaturize her miniature! By shrinking, simplifying, and adapting, we can get a sense of how these quilts were made, and pay homage to her incredible work.



## Sample Block: A Midwinter Month's Block



Sample by Laura Hendrickson

- Size 10.5" x 10.5" (finishes 10" x 10")
- Supplies: fabric marking tool, embellishments (such as embroidery thread, beads, buttons, crystals, or whatever makes you happy!)
- Fabric: 4 colors



# Preparation

## Cutting

### Fabric A Navy - Background

- (2)  $12 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{2}''$  ---> borders
- (2)  $8 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{2}''$  ---> borders
  
- (4)  $2 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{4}''$  ---> cut each square in half diagonally (8 triangles)
  
- (1)  $4 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 4 \frac{1}{2}''$  ---> square
- (4)  $2 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{2}''$  ---> squares

### Fabric B Purple

- (2)  $2 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{4}''$  ---> cut each square in half diagonally (4 triangles)
- (4)  $2 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{2}''$  ---> squares

### Fabric C White

- (6)  $2 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{4}''$  ---> cut each square in half diagonally (12 triangles)

### Fabric D Gray

- (4)  $2 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 2 \frac{1}{4}''$  ---> cut each square in half diagonally (8 triangles)

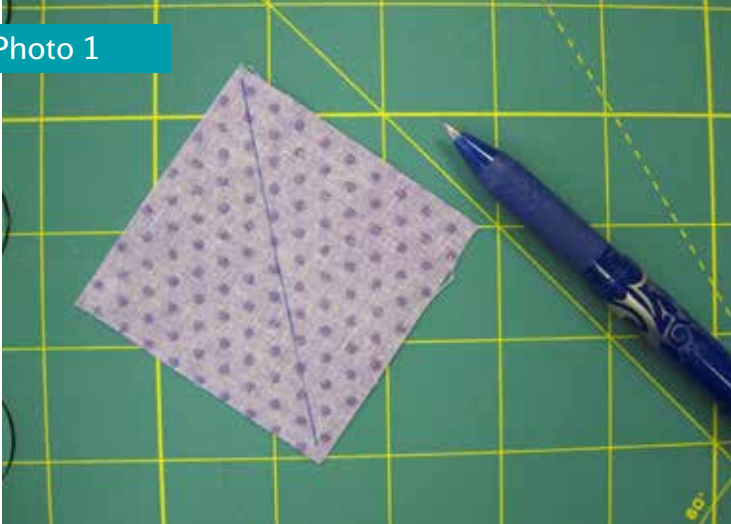
### Note:

With so many small pieces and points in this pattern, I recommend checking your settings to ensure your  $\frac{1}{4}''$  seam allowance is accurate. Stitch on scrap fabric and measure the seam allowance, and adjust as needed before starting the pattern.



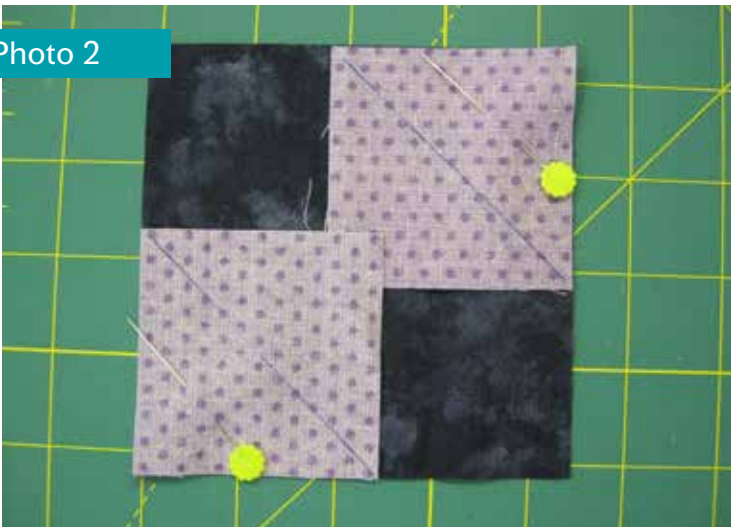
## Assembly: Center square-within-a-square

Photo 1



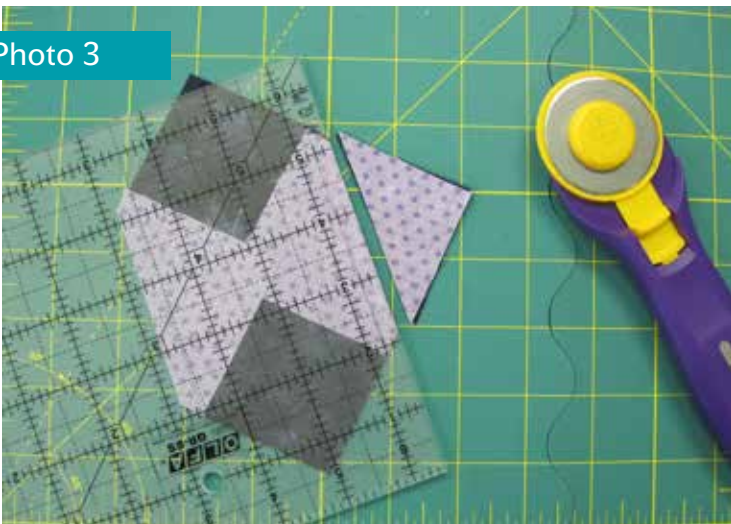
1. Mark a diagonal line, from corner to corner, on the wrong side of each of the four  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$  purple squares (Photo 1).

Photo 2



2. With right sides together, pin two of the purple squares to the  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$  navy square at opposing corners. The marked lines should run parallel to each other (Photo 2).

Photo 3

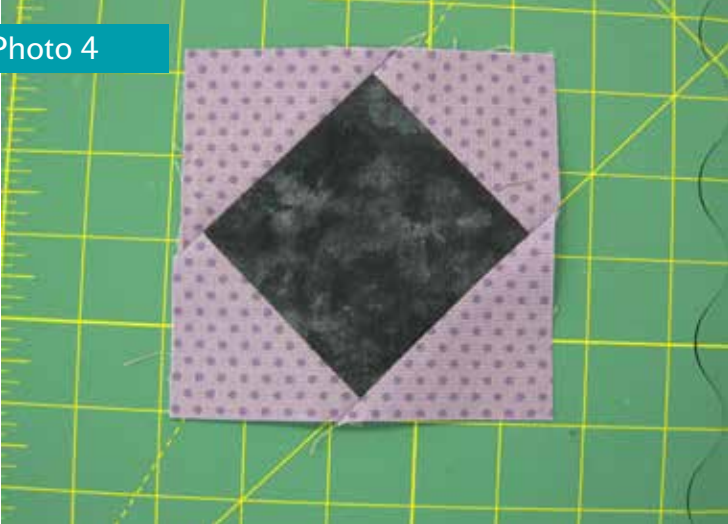


3. Stitch directly on the marked lines, then trim a  $\frac{1}{4}''$  away from the stitched line on both corners (Photo 3).



## Assembly: Center square-within-a-square

Photo 4



4. Press the seams open.
5. Repeat Steps 2-4 with the two remaining purple squares on the open corners. Set the center square aside (Photo 4).



## Assembly: Sidebar Units

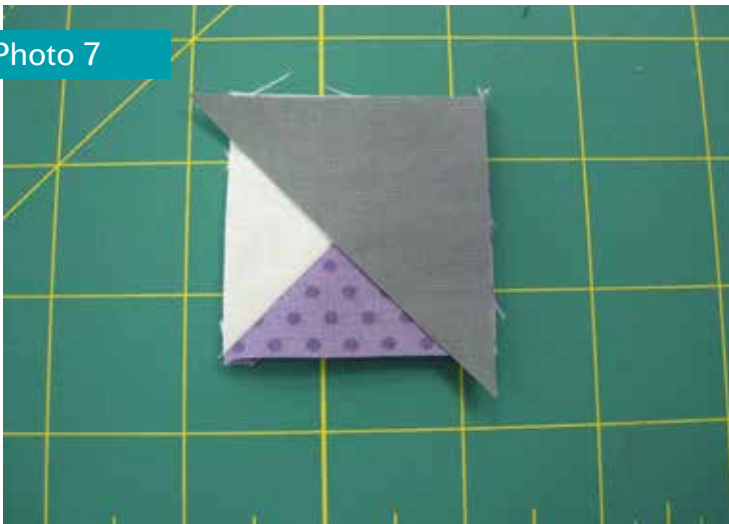
Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



For these four units, I chose to chain-stitch my pieces. (Feel free to work on just one of the bar units at a time if you prefer).

1. Pair up the four purple triangles and four white triangles, right sides together. Sew along the long sides of the triangles. Press seams open, and carefully trim off the dog ears (Photo 5).
2. Set the half-square triangle as shown (Photo 6) with the purple on the bottom right. Place one grey triangle right sides together, matching up the top right corners (Photo 7). Repeat for remaining 3 half-square triangle pieces.





## Assembly: Sidebar Units

Photo 8

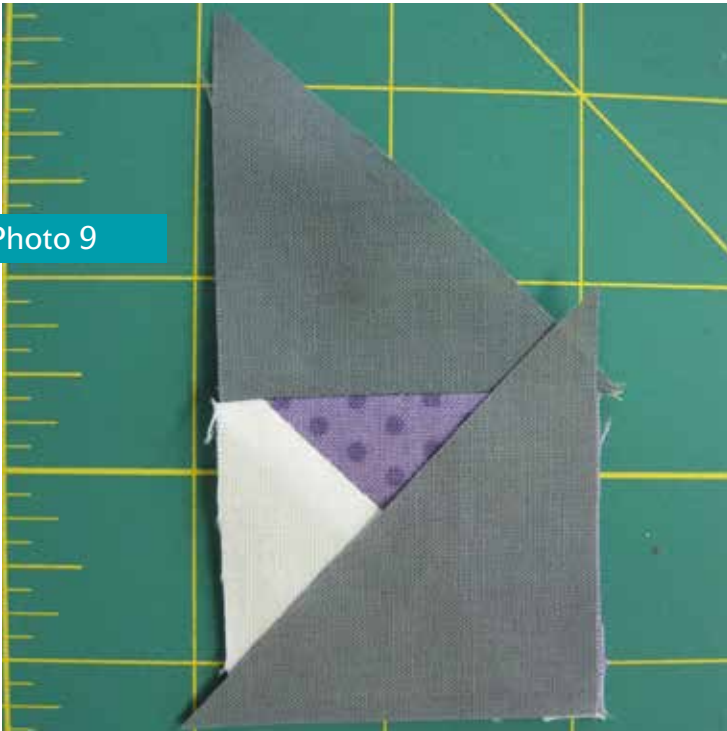


3. Sew along the right side of the grey triangle (Photo 8). Press seams open and trim off dog ears.

4. Align the unit vertically, so the grey triangle is on the top.

Place remaining grey triangle right sides together, matching the bottom right corners this time (Photo 9).

Photo 9



5. Sew along the right side of the grey triangle. Press seams open and trim off dog ears. Units should look as shown (Photo 10).

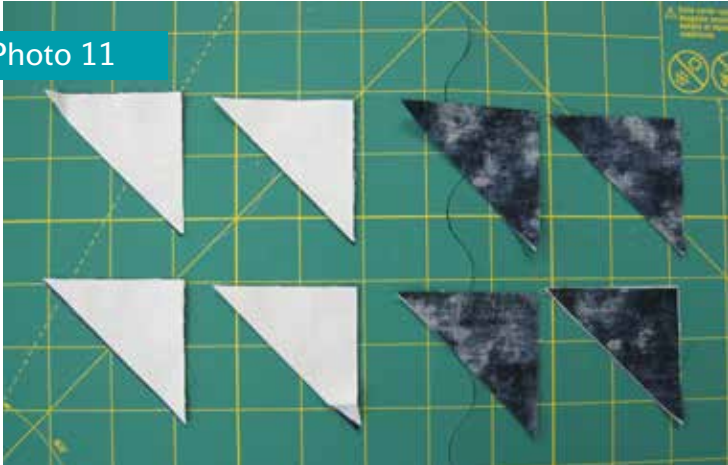
Photo 10





## Assembly: Sidebar Units

Photo 11



6. Match up the remaining white triangles with the 8 navy triangles, right sides together. Arrange as shown, with half of the pairs with the white triangle on top, and half of the pairs with the navy triangle on top (Photo 11).

7. Sew all pairs along the right side. Half of the units will be navy on the left and white on the right, and the other units will be the reverse: white on the left and navy on the right. Press seams open and trim off dog ears (Photo 12).

8. Lay out all units as shown (Photo 13).

Photo 12

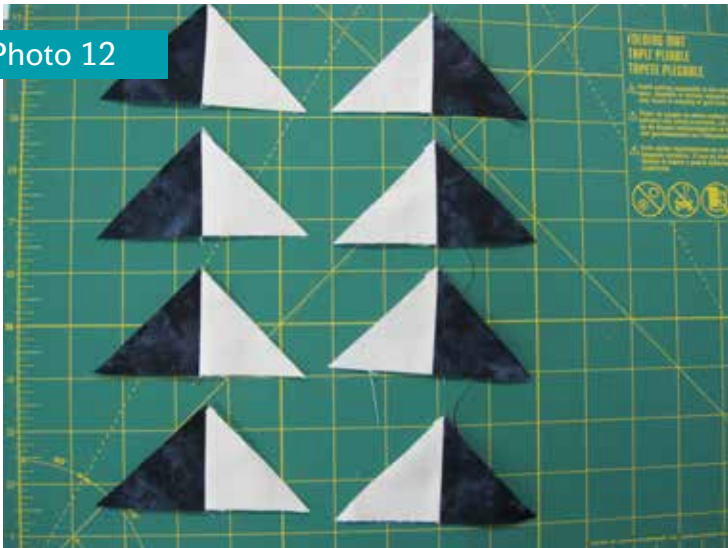


Photo 13





## Assembly: Sidebar Units

Photo 14



9. Join a white/navy pair to the left side of the center unit. Match up seams and pin in place. Stitch, press seams open, and trim off dog ears (Photo 14).

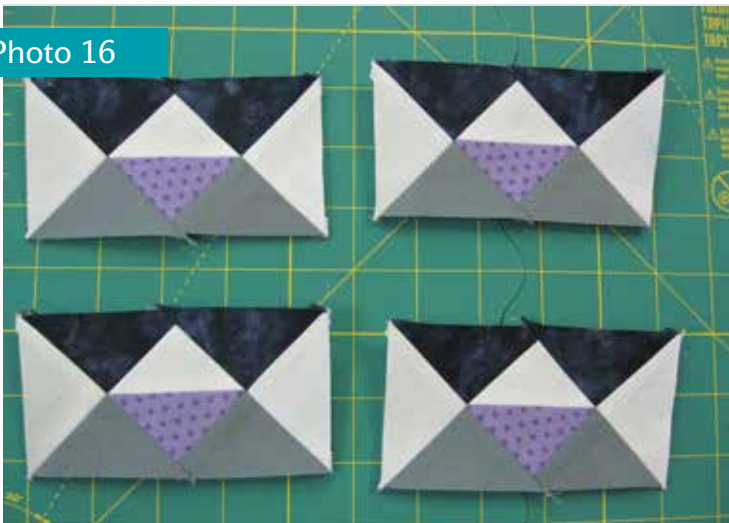
10. Repeat on the right side, with a navy/white pair. Pin, stitch, press seams open, and trim off dog ears (Photo 15).

11. Repeat steps 9 and 10 to complete all 4 sidebar units (Photo 16).

Photo 15



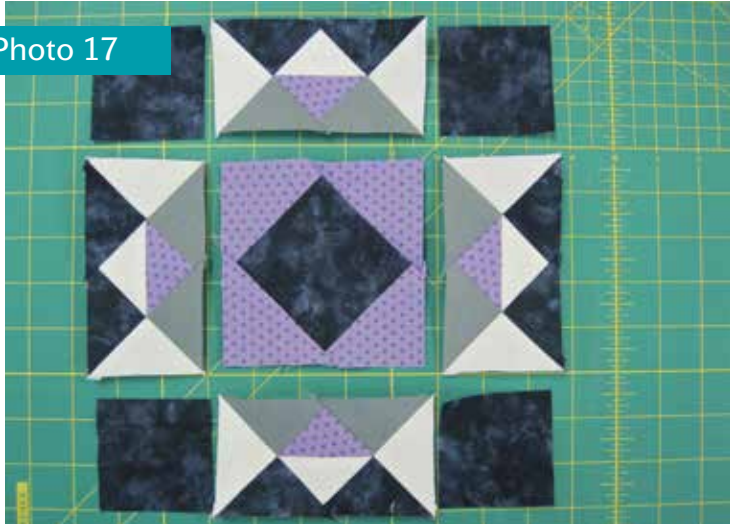
Photo 16





# Assembly

Photo 17



12. Layout all units, excluding the border strips, in the block design. All navy triangles should be on the outer edges (Photo 17).

13. Sew a 2 ½" x 2 ½" navy square to each end of the top bar unit. Press seams open. Repeat for the bottom bar unit.

14. Sew the left and right bar units to the left and right sides of the center square. Press seams open (Photo 18).

15. Join the top and bottom rows to the center, taking care to line up and pin the seams. Press seams open (Photo 19).

Photo 18



Photo 19





## Assembly: Borders

Photo 20



16. Sew the  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " border strips to the left and right of the block. Press seams towards the border strip.

17. Sew the  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " border strips to the top and bottom of the block. Press seams towards the border strip (Photo 20).

18. Trim the block to be  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " (Photo 21).

Photo 21





# Embellishments

Photo 22



1. Create your snowflakes! I've chosen to create my center snowflake with a mixture of embroidery and beads. My four cornerstone snowflakes are simpler in design (Photo 22).
2. To represent the flowers in the center diamond and border corners, I added small purple buttons and embroidered simple green leaves. Be sure to keep embellishments at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the outer edges to allow for seams.

**TIP:** Use your favorite embellishment method! Hand embroidery, beads, buttons, fabric paints, heat-set crystals, decorative stitching, etc.

Finished?  
Fabulous!



# National Quilt Museum Updates

## Exhibit



See quilts from the museum's collection in the *Stitched in All Sizes* exhibit January 31 – March 3, 2020. Explore the artistry and connections between a variety of quilts from our smallest miniature to our largest bed-sized quilt.

- **Visit Now** [quiltmuseum.org/visit/current-exhibits/](http://quiltmuseum.org/visit/current-exhibits/)

## #RitasQuilt Event



Rita's Quilt will debut here at the museum on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 1 pm! Join us for this special event and meet some of the amazing stitchers who helped complete this project. Follow along online with #RitasQuilt or plan to visit before May 17, 2020 and see it in person.

- **Learn More** [quiltmuseum.org/ritas-quilt/](http://quiltmuseum.org/ritas-quilt/)

## Workshops



Check out the 2020 workshop schedule. Learn new techniques, skills or methods of quilting with our nationally-known instructors, all while enjoying the museum exhibits and Paducah culture for yourself.

- **Register Online** [quiltmuseum.org/education/adult-workshops/](http://quiltmuseum.org/education/adult-workshops/)

## Shop



Visit our online museum shop and you'll find quilting gifts for your friends (or yourself)! Collection books, mugs, patterns and t-shirts are all available. Friends of the Museum receive 20% off all purchases.

- **Shop Now** [quiltmuseum.org/store/](http://quiltmuseum.org/store/)