

"JINNY" BEYER -- BIOGRAPHY

One of the brightest stars on the quilt horizon, Jinny (Geraldine) Beyer of Fairfax, Va., flew into San Jose, Ca. on August 24 to give a week of classes, lectures, and to be a special guest for a quilt show. The week's activities were sponsored by the Cambrian YWCA.

Jinny is Colorado-born, California-educated, world-traveled, and a warm ambassador for quilts. Her designs and colors are outstanding and her workmanship is so superior that it would make any quiltmaker proud.. and put an end to the rumor that quiltmakers today won't take the time and trouble to make fine quilts.

She admits, "I've made mistakes, all kinds of them, but if I'm not satisfied with it, I'll redo it... a quilt is a piece of art and for me, there can be no compromise. I want to be proud of it and I want my children and their children to be proud of it". She says it quietly but with assurance.

When asked if she took art, she says, "No, I have no formal art training but there are artists in my family and my younger sister was so outstanding that people have always praised her for it. When I started making quilts in 1972, I found my medium and now I feel I am an artist. I love the textures and the colors."

I remember the day I saw my first quilt", says Jinny. "It was hanging in a commissary in India. I am embarrassed to say that it looked like a design sown onto a mattress pad. that terrible? All that work, which I now appreciate but then it just looked like a mattress pad. I vowed that nobody would ever be able to say that about a quilt I made".

Soon after that, she decided o make a quilt using scraps from six shirts she had made from the dark , rich-looking Indian prints for her family at home. She chose "Grandmother's Flower Garden" and it was indeed, a far cry from the "mattress pad". Since then she has made nine quilts and it is easy to see that those four years in India influenced her design and colors.

One of the things she likes about the quilting is that it allows her to be with her family. She enjoys her children and their friends and quilting is the perfect activity for her creative talents and her family.

Her Masters degree is in Deaf Education. She volunteers one day a week helping the deaf children at the school her own children attend. Her children are Sean, age 13, Darren, age 11 and Kiran, age 7.

For further information about Jinny and her quilts you may want to look in the following:

Quilter's Newsletter

May '74,(pg21) March '75,(pg7)
Dec.'76,(pg23) May t77,(pg24)
Sept'77,(pg11) July '76,(pg 16/17)
Aug '76, (cover & pg 18)

--Joyce Gross

CAMBRIAN YWCA QUILTING CLASS

The class was more than one half filled with teachers and only a few had not done any quilting before. Jinny Beyer, who is largely self-taught, gave a very instructive class from careful and extensive notes. In the 25 hours of basic quilting, she included color selection, applique, piecing, quilting, patchwork clothing and patchwork Christmas items and each of us made a pillow, drafting our own pattern a-la Jinny in paper.

Jinny's preferences are:

1. piecing to applique
2. 100% cotton fabrics
3. border prints
4. Mt. Mist batts
5. Consco drapery thread for quilting
6. Stripes but use them crosswise
7. To make her own patterns by folding paper to get her designs and cuts directly from the paper

She says ...don't be afraid to discard a block and don't finish a thing if you don't like it. Experimentation goes with failure ...The more the background of the quilt is filled in, the more the quilted design shows off.

To the question, what about people copying your quilts, "I doubt that many people would have the patience to do all those thin points and the amount of quilting I do, but if they did, I would be flattered

--Joyce Gross