

CURATORS' STATEMENT

Printed imagery and sewn fibers are an ancient combination. At their confluence there is pigment and pressure, woven layers and borders, and woven fiber. There is color and also texture, form, intention, ingenuity, and many stories. Textile and print go hand in hand, and the combinations are constantly being reinvented. Printmakers often reference fiber and stitching, while textile artists increasingly incorporate printed elements into their work.

In *Printed & Stitched*, the California Society of Printmakers (CSP) and Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) worked together to examine the overlap between the hand pulled print and the art quilt through work that is both printed *and* stitched. The curatorial team shared a vision. We all wanted to recognize boundary-crossing work, to encourage experimentation, and to engage with the ongoing, decades-long debate about art vs craft.

The exhibit's Call for Entry was published in 2022 and open to all members of CSP and SAQA's California/Nevada regions. All submissions were required to meet both SAQA's definition of an art quilt and CSP's definition of a fine art print:

The art quilt is a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure (SAQA).

The fine art, hand pulled print may employ traditional printmaking techniques, such as etching, lithography, relief printing, and silk screen. It also includes hybrid prints, monoprints, elements of digital prints, and artist books, so long as some hand printmaking is involved (CSP).

In all, 83 artists responded to the call, submitting over 160 pieces. Juror Christine Aaron selected an intoxicating blend of work representing a wide range of approaches and techniques as well as depth of meaning and breadth of subject matter.

As we reflected on this journey, we concluded that *Printed & Stitched* is both just what we hoped it would be, and so much more than we ever had reason to expect. And we sincerely hope that *Printed & Stitched* creates excitement, and encourages boundary-crossing experiments in the future.

Making art can be its own reward, but it is in the interaction between art and viewer that the work finds its purpose. So now, we turn *Printed & Stitched* over to you – the viewer – to add your indispensable ingredients to the banquet.

– The *Printed & Stitched* Curatorial Team

Kate Deak and Kevin Harris for California Society of Printmakers
Barbara Kibbe and Connie Rohman for Studio Art Quilt Associates,
California/Nevada Regions