

On the Wings of a Dream

- * DESIGNED, PIECED, AND QUILTED BY: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- * DATE: 2008
- * SIZE: 63" wide x 64" high
- * COLORS: Blue, green, red-orange
- * MATERIALS: Fabric: 100% cotton • Batting: 80% cotton / 20% Polyester
- * CARE: Dry clean only
- * TECHNIQUES: Hand dyed and painted, machine pieced, machine quilted.
- * IDENTIFYING MARKS: Signature & label
- * OWNER: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- * PHOTO: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- * PRICE: \$61,000.00



Design Concept and Process:

On the Wings of a Dream is about starting a new life in a new place. In 2005, my husband and I moved from the Fox Valley of Illinois where I had spent my whole life, to Paducah, Kentucky where he could have the rural farm he had always wanted, and I could build a studio and workshop center in the nearby arts district. Shortly after my studio was completed in 2006, my husband died.

The loss of a life partner means the closing of a chapter, but also the beginning of a new chapter, with new possibilities. Flying cranes and herons have frequently appeared in my work as symbols of the ultimate feeling of freedom. I have wanted to dance all of my life, and never had the opportunity to learn. To me dance seemed very close to flying. As a new life chapter begins there is freedom to make new choices and try new things. The dancer and the transparent white bird merge together to represent this freedom. The eagle represents the past which must be left behind in order to move forward. Two weeks after I started this quilt in July of 2007, I began taking dance lessons, and the quilt was completed in August of 2008 as I finished my first year of dancing.

The design for this quilt began with the outline of a dancer "flying" across a stage. I photographed my own face, hands and feet to provide the details of the dancer, and created a fanciful red dress that swirls from the dancer's body into the sky in loose ribbons of rainbow colors which become transparent as they flow over legs and arms. The dancer, the background, and the birds were drawn separately with pencil on paper. These were layered on the computer and the lines adjusted so that each layer relates to the next, and merges visually. The white bird was enlarged to the same scale as the dancer, and the angle of the neck and head altered to follow the contours of the dancer's body. The background is a luminous merging of abstract sky and earth, with just a hint of water between. The hair of the dancer flows behind her and merges into the sky in the upper left corner of the quilt. The long curving templates were cut from fabrics that I hand dyed and painted as well as many different fabrics from the "Gradations" collection which I designed for Benartex. The back of the quilt and part of the binding are made from fabrics in my "Glacier Park: Splash" collection for Benartex.

This is the most heavily quilted piece I have made to date (August 2008). First the entire surface was closely stitched in colors to match the dancer and the background. The outline of the white bird was then projected onto the quilted surface, marked, and stitched with heavy (#30) white top-stitching thread. The remaining details of the bird were stitched with #40 white top-stitching thread. The eagle was quilted with black and medium gray thread. The background and details of the dancer can be clearly seen through both birds, making them seem dreamlike and transparent. For pictures of original sketches and more details go to:

<http://www.bryerpatch.com/images/quiltrecords/OnTheWingsOfADream/OnTheWingsOfADream.htm>

Exhibitions:

- * Quilts a World of Beauty: International Quilt Association Juried Show, Quilt Festival 2009, Houston TX (**BEST OF SHOW**)
- * American Quilters Society Show, (juried) 2010, Paducah KY. (**Honorable Mention**)
- * Bryerpatch Studio Gallery, Paducah, KY 2008-20??

Publications:

- * Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau 2009 national advertising campaign, appearing in dozens of magazines and newspapers all over North America.
- * International Quilt Festival Quilt Scene: Special Commemorative Issue, Winter 2009/2010: pp. 6, 18, 19
- * Houston Chronicle, Thursday, October 15, 2009, p. 1B
- * Paducah Sun: Thursday October 15, 2009, p. 2A
- * American Quilter Magazine: January 2010 p. 82
- * Arte Patchwork, (Spain) December 2009, **COVER**
- * 4 Her, Kentucky Publishing Inc. Spring 2010, pp. 16-17
- * Skywest Magazine, September/October 2010 pp. 21 & 24

Caryl Bryer Fallert Quilt Art Record

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On the Wings of a Dream (detail) • 63''w x 64''h • Copyright © 2008 Caryl Bryer Fallert • Bryerpatch Studio