Bryerpatch Studio • 10 Baycliff Pl. • Port Townsend, WA 98368 • caryl @bryerpatch.com • www.bryerpatch.com

Duet #2

* DATE: 1997
* SIZE: 72" wide x 90" high
* COLORS: Brown, white, & rainbow colors
* FABRICS: Fabric: 100% cotton Batting: 80% cotton/ 20% polyester
* TECHNIQUES: Hand dyed, hand painted, machine pieced, appliqued, quilted
* IDENTIFYING MARKS: Signature and label
* DESIGNED, PIECED, AND QUILTED BY: Caryl Bryer Fallert
* PHOTO: Caryl Bryer Fallert
* OWNER: Private collection, Nellysford, VA

Design Concept and Process:

In September of 1995, my husband Bob was driving home on the Illinois Tollway, when a blood vessel ruptured in his brain. He lost consciousness and crashed into a toll booth. I found Bob in the hospital, completely paralized on one side, and unable to complete a sentence. The doctor's prognosis was as dismal as it could possible be. We were given no reason to hope that Bob would ever be able to walk or speak again. We learned later that the doctor did not expect him to live through the night. Five days later, Bob walked out of the hospital without a cane, and continued on to make a miraculous recovery. Almost losing my life partner caused me to focus attention on the value of our relationship. Bob & I had eleven bonus years before a second brain hemorrhage took his life in December of 2006

Birds of all kinds have become my personal symbols for the many events and relationships in my life. This is one of several quilts about birds that mate for life. To create the design for Duet #2, I found a small picture of two eagles in flight, with silhouettes that expressed the idea in my mind. The picture was very small, so I was only able to draw the silhouettes of the birds from this source. I drew outlines of the birds on paper, and scanned them into my computer. By using a book on bird anatomy, I was able to fill in details of feather patterns, heads, eyes, and feet. The positions and shapes of the birds were rearranged until the shape between their heads formed the shape of a heart. The remainder of the composition was drawn directly in the computer.

Once I was satisfied with the line drawing, it was printed onto clear acetate, and projected onto a 72" x 90" piece of paper to make a full size drawing. The drawing was then cut apart, and the pieces of the drawing were used as templates for cutting the hand dyed and painted fabrics in the quilt. The picture was then pieced back together like a giant puzzle. Surrounding the two eagles are a series of sweeping curves. At the top, these curves intersect to form an abstract heart. In one curving shape that sweeps across the quilt in front of and between the eagles are a series of hearts quilted in graduated sizes. The eagles are quilted with black and white thread. The rest of the quilt is quilted with variegated top stitching thread in rainbow colors. With the exception of the hearts, the free motion, machine quilting was done freehand, without any marking of the quilt top. In the center of the quilt, the stitching echos the patterns of the dyes as they flow together in the painted fabric, suggesting wind and clouds in the sky. In the lower part of the quilt, the quilting patterns are more organic, suggesting vegetation of various kinds. I call this kind of quilting "drawing with thread." The patterns created are as unique to each quilter as their handwriting or their signature. The back of the quilt is made from a multi-colored painted fabric suggesting sky.

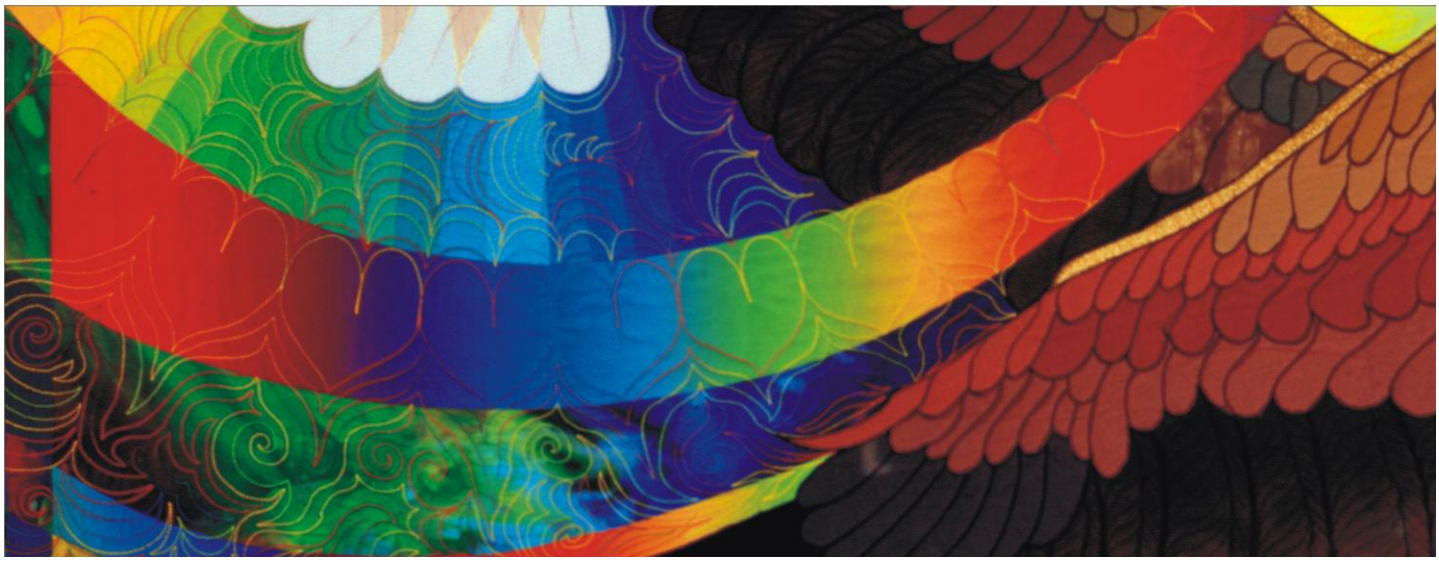
Bryerpatch Studio • 10 Baycliff Pl. • Port Townsend, WA 98368 • caryl @bryerpatch.com • www.bryerpatch.com

Exhibitions:

* MID-ATLANTIC QUILT FESTIVAL, 1997, (juried) Williamsburg, VA (HONORABLE MENTION)
* QUILTS FROM THE HEART—QUILTS OF EMOTION, My Old Kentucky Home, 1997 Festival of Quilts, (juried) Bardstown, KY
* 10th QUILTERS HERITAGE CELEBRATION, 1997, (juried) Lancaster, PA (SECOND PLACE / JURORS CHOICE)
* AMERICAN QUILTERS SOCIETY SHOW, 1997, (juried) Paducah, KY
* QUILTING BY THE LAKE SYMPOSIUM, Faculty Invitational Exhibition, Morrisville, NY 1997
* INTERNATIONAL QUILT ASSOCIATION SHOW, 1997, (juried) Houston, Texas (Pfaff Master Award for Machine Artistry)
* STARS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI, Quilts Inc, St. Louis, MO April 17-19
* QUILTS A WORLD OF BEAUTY AWARD WINNERS, IAQ Innsbruck, Austria, May 25-29
* QUILTS=ART=QUILTS, SMArt Center, Auburn, NY (BEST OF SHOW, JUROR'S CHOICE)
* QUILTS BY THE MASTERS, Durham Western Heritage Museum, Omaha, NE May15-July 18 1998
* QUILTMAKERS SHOWCASE, Special Inviatational Exhibit, 1999, Silver Dollar City, Branson, MO
* THE GOOD EARTH, Aullwood Audubon Center, 2000 (juried) Dayton, OH (VIEWERS' CHOICE)

Publications:

* **AURORA BEACON NEWS:** Aurora, Illinois, Monday, Jan. 6, 1997 (process) Front page
* THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Springfield, Illinois, Sunday, Jan. 5, 1997 (process) page 4
* QUILTS FROM THE HEART-QUILTS OF EMOTION**,** Show Catalog, **COVER,** & page 1 , Festival of Quilts, Bardstown, KY 1997
* KENTUCKY STANDARD, (newspaper) Thurs. May 17, 1997, page A1
* HOUSTON CRONICLE, Wednesday, October 22, 1997, p. D-1
* QUILTS: A World of Beauty, Journal of the International Quilt Association, Winter 1998, FRONT INSIDE COVER
* THE EVANSVILLE COURIER, Tempo, B1,Thursday, Feb. 5, 1998
* WHEATON MAGAZINE, Spring, 1998, BACK COVER
* QUILT MANIA, 1998: (France) Mar/Apr FEATURE, p12
* QUILTERS NEWSLETTER MAGAZINE 1998: July/Aug p 45
* DOWN UNDER QUILTS, 1998, December, pp. 8
* Dayton Daily News, April 20 , 2000 P. c-1
* Englewood Independent, Wed. May 3, 2000
* One Quilt One Moment, Quilts that Change Lives, 2000: Primedia, pp.68-69
* Focus on Features, C&T Pub. Charlotte Warr Andersen, 2000, p. 61
* American Quilter, Spring 2001, p. 24



Bryerpatch Studio • 10 Baycliff Pl. • Port Townsend, WA 98368 • caryl @bryerpatch.com • www.bryerpatch.com

Duet #2 • 72“ x 90” • Copyright ©1997 Caryl Bryer Fallert • Bryerpatch Studio • www.bryerpatch.com