

Rail Fence (My First Quilt)

- DESIGNED, PIECED AND TIED BY: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- DATE: 1976
- SIZE: 80" x 90"
- COLORS: yellow, blue, beige, green
- MATERIALS: cotton and poly/cotton fabric, wool batting
- TECHNIQUES: machine pieced, tied
- IDENTIFYING MARKS:
- PHOTO: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- OWNER: Caryl Bryer Fallert
- PRICE: nfs



Design Concept & Process:

In 1974, my husband and I bought an old farm in Missouri from Ida Vohs, a 79 year old woman who made quilts. She had closets full of quilts, and I was entranced when she got them out and showed them to us. At that time I was a painter, and also dabbled in a number of other mediums. I had been sewing since I was ten years old and quilting seemed like one more fun thing to try, so I bought a book on quilts from the literary guild. In that first book was a picture of a quilt called "Rail Fence". It seemed pretty simple, and I figured I could make it without a pattern. So I gave it a try.

This is my very first quilt, made in 1976. I didn't know very much about quilts or how to make them, so I made a single template out of cardboard and cut out each piece with scissors. The print fabrics are drapery samples from a book of discontinued wallpaper samples. The solid fabrics are heavy "trigger" cotton/poly blends. I laid out the pieces like a knitting pattern and began to sew. The whole quilt was made with 5/8" seam allowances, and when I started to sew the rows together I discovered that accurate cutting and seaming might have made the task easier. I didn't know how to quilt, so I tied it with knitting yarn, using a sheet as a backing. Instead of batting I used an old, very used-up quilt that had been made by my husband's grandmother. It was filled with layers of thin, white, wool, knitted fabric, which I can only conclude, must have been worn out long underwear. The finished patchwork comforter weighs about fifteen pounds, and is very warm even on the coldest nights.

Exhibitions:

- Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, (retrospective exhibition of my work) Cedarburg, WI, January 14-April 12, 2015
- Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry: A Retrospective, New England Quilt Museum, Lowell, MA, August 20 - October 31, 2015
- Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry: 40 Years of Color, Light, & Motion, University Museum, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, January 26 - April 16, 2016

Publications & Media:

- First Quilt/Last Quilt series
Quilters Newsletter
Magazine, 1990's



CARYL BRYER FALLERT-GENTRY • QUILT ART RECORD

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



Rail Fence • 80" x 90" • Copyright © 1976 Caryl Bryer Fallert • Bryerpatch Studio • www.bryerpatch.com