

# SHOW AND TELL - MAY 2019

Suzanne Wade: 6<sup>th</sup> Bargello and "Breakfast"



Joan Torbett : "I love in the Air" and "Hail to Ale"



Elaine Giometti



Pat Newsome



Sally Hill: Mystery Quilt



Hope Mulstay



Sue Leuschen



Marianne Crouch



# Congratulations to Valley Quilter's Member

## Phyllis Binkley!

### A15 COMMUNITY

Friday, April 26, 2019 » MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/THEPRESSENERPRISE AND TWITTER.COM/PRESSENERPRISE » N

#### ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## Hemet turns photos into world-class quilts

By Patrick Brien

Before Phyllis Binkley was 18 years old, she had visited 44 states and Canada. Her family loved camping and hiking, which took them to many state and national parks. The love of the outdoors can be seen in Binkley's art, which she creates mainly from photos she has taken during her travels.

Binkley specializes in fabric collage, using a technique that is known in the quilting world as "raw-edge appliqué."

"I iron on a heat bond material to the back of all my fabrics, so when I cut out a shape it can be ironed down and stick wherever I please," the longtime Hemet resident said. "From there, I add yarns, wool, thread work and whatever else I need to make the textures and colors of nature. Some of my work is dye-painted first, or parts of it are painted, then other parts are collaged before stitching."

Binkley did not start off as a fabric artist, however. Her art forms have included painting, ceramics, jewelry, weaving, drawing and sculpture.

Born and raised in Bloomington, Illinois, she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Illinois State University. During post-graduate work, she became involved with photography, calligraphy and Sumi-E, or Japanese black-ink painting. She also



COURTESY PHOTO

Hemet fabric artist Phyllis Binkley works with photo collages.

did glass blowing through a program offered by Texas Tech University.

Binkley taught art in Clinton, Illinois, for 12 years before spending the next 18 years as an art teacher in Houston. Retiring after 30 years in the classroom, she was inspired by her mother's interest in sewing and quilting.

"Art quilting and making pictures with fabric was just getting a foothold at the big quilting shows," Binkley said. "I attended

the Houston Quilt Festival in 1995, and then started doing fabric art on my own. My mom knew my love of fibers and fabrics and insisted that I attend one of these big quilt shows to see what was being done."

Binkley began submitting some of her larger pieces to local and national quilt shows, as well as museums and galleries.

"Out of the Ruins, a Nation Thrives" was a 2009 award winner in a Wonders of the World special exhibition for the Houston Quilt Festival.

She also had her work exhibited at the Road 2 California Quilt Show in Ontario for several years and at the San Jose Quilt Museum. Now she mainly concentrates on smaller pieces, although she is currently part of the Artscape exhibit at the Riverside County Administration Center.

In 2002, Binkley taught a workshop on small collage landscapes at a recreational vehicle rally. Some of the participants went back to their quilt guilds and asked if she would come teach for them. Binkley began what she called a "second career" as a lecturer and teacher for guilds throughout Southern California, as well as Hawaii and Sacramento. Now she keeps her teaching closer to home at the Hemet Valley Quilters Guild.

"It was a natural transition for me to go from teaching in schools to teaching adults to do fabric art," she said.

Binkley attributes much of her passion as an artist to her high school art teacher.

"She was very encouraging, and took me under her wing when she saw my interest and how hard I worked on all my projects," Binkley said. "She was wonderful and a great inspiration."

To see more of Binkley's work, go to [phyllisbinkley.wordpress.com](http://phyllisbinkley.wordpress.com).

Patrick Brien is president of the Riverside Arts Council.

# May 30<sup>th</sup> Field Trip Lunch

