



# Scottish Modern Quilt Exhibition

## 60 Beautiful Modern Quilts, Bags, Cushions from Quilters and Bloggers all over Scotland

### Why a Scottish Modern Quilt Exhibition?

Curator Jo Avery has been quilting for 25 years, originally joining the Quilter's Guild and being an active member of a local group.

Jo took a break from quilting in the early 2000's, but when she later re-entered the local quilting world she found that little had changed in terms of style or design approach. Her own aesthetic tastes had changed and were inspired by the lovely new fabric designs and colours available. In 2009 she discovered the blossoming quilt world on the internet. Straight away she knew that her new quilting style had found a home and she started her own blog - myBearpaw.com. Joining this online community resulted in making wonderful friends all over the world as well as making and collaborating on many satisfying quilts - altogether a huge amount of fun!

After starting her craft studio at her shop - Avery Homestore in 2011, Jo realised there was a big interest and enthusiasm for modern quilting and found that people were fascinated by the activities of online quilters. Having made contact and firm friendships with a group of Scottish bloggers she is mounting this exhibition to bring their quilts and the stories behind them to a wider world.

### What is Modern Quilting?

Modern quilts are primarily functional and inspired by modern design. Modern quilters work in different styles and define modern quilting in different ways, but several characteristics often appear which may help identify a modern quilt. These include, but are not limited to: the use of bold colours and prints, high contrast and graphic areas of solid colour, improvisational piecing, minimalism, expansive negative space, and alternate grid work. "Modern traditionalism" or the updating of classic quilt designs is also often seen in modern quilting.

### Modern Quilt Guild

The MQG developed out of the thriving online community of modern quilters and their desire to start meeting in person. The founding guild was formed in Los Angeles in October of 2009. Through blogs and the Internet word spread quickly of the fun they were having and soon guilds started popping up everywhere and now number 150 worldwide. We would like to start a MQG for the East of Scotland. If you would interested in joining us or would just like more information please fill in a slip at the till.



Jo Avery is a passionate quilter who has been quilting for 25 years. she runs Avery Homestore where she also teaches classes in sewing, quilting and crochet.



Exhibit No. 33



Jo's blog has around 1000 followers and is an ideal entry point to the online quilting world.



The Stitch Gathering, a modern quilt retreat in Edinburgh on Sunday 25th of August, will be a further focus for the movement. Look out for additional events next year.

[stitchgathering.co.uk](http://stitchgathering.co.uk)

**Choose YOUR favourite quilt in the exhibition!**

Quilt No:



We are having a people's choice competition just for fun. Please vote on the slips provided and let us know which is your favourite quilt. There will be a prize for the top quilt's maker and we hope to produce a calendar from photos of the top 12 quilts!

Fill in a slip with the number from the top right of the item's card



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## Item Categories - an explanation of the many interesting activities within Modern Quilting.

### Quiltalongs - QAL

A group of quilters all make the same quilt at the same time and share their experiences on-line. These are often initiated by a particular blogger or group of bloggers who 'host' the QAL. They may post tutorials on their blog to help everyone with the quilt making. There will usually be a group for the QAL on Flickr where members can ask questions, share tips and information and post photos of their progress and finished quilts. Anyone can join these Quiltalongs at any time and can work at their own pace. They provide fantastic support and resources for quilters old and new and are a fun way to try out a new design with quilters all over the world.

### Bees – B

A group of quilters make patchwork blocks for each other every month. There are many different ways of organising these but as an example, a group of 12 quilters make a block each for one of the group every month, so every month you make a block for a different member and one month you receive 12 blocks for your own quilt! In some Bees each member will provide the fabric for the blocks and send these out to the group, in other Bees members will choose fabric from their own stash. Members may be given free reign to make whatever they like or be asked to make a particular block design. This is a lovely way to make a quilt gradually with help from quilters all over the world whilst also contributing to many other quilts. It is also a great way to try out new blocks and build your skills without having to commit to a whole quilt.

### Round Robins – RR

This is similar to a Bee but in this case each member sends the centre or the first row of a quilt and the next member adds to this, either by adding another round (if making a medallion quilt) or another row or part of a quilt, and then sends the partially made quilt top on to the next member to add their round. Eventually each member receives a completed quilt top! This is a very challenging, creative way to make quilts but quite expensive in postage if the group is international!

### Swaps – SW

All sorts of craft swaps are organised on the internet. Most patchwork and quilting swaps are organised on Flickr. Some swaps are for mini quilts like the Doll Quilt Swap (DQS), but you can also swap, cushions, bags, pincushions, mug rugs and many more items! Flickr members join together and start a swap group, they ask for sign-ups and set out dates and rules for the swaps. Some swaps are open to anyone, and others are by invitation only. The admins for the group are called Swap Mamas and the swappers are called Swap Bebes. The Swap Mamas organise their Bebes in to different groups dependant on skill levels or other criteria and assign each swapper a partner to swap with. Most swaps are secret, you will know who you are making for but will not know who is making for you. In your sign-up form you will have stated your likes and dislikes and your partner will also 'stalk' you (in a nice way!) by visiting your blog or Flickr photostream to find out what sort of things you like, and will then try to incorporate this in to the item they choose to make you. Swappers are encouraged to post photos in the Flickr group of the whole making process - from first sketches and fabric choices right up to the finished item. Excitement mounts as you wait for your swap item to arrive and hope it is one of your favourites! These swap groups are one of the best ways to get involved with the online quilting community and are very addictive!

### Bloghop - BH

These are usually initiated by a particular blogger who will host the Bloghop by listing dates and links to the other blogs involved. They are usually to highlight a particular technique or event, for instance the launch of a new craft book. Bloggers taking part will post about the subject when their turn comes, having usually designed or made something specific to the bloghop subject. These are a great way for bloggers to all focus on a particular interest they have in common and for readers to view lots of different inspirations and view points on a subject or technique.

### Charity Quilts - CH

Quilters are a very generous lot and love to make quilts for others! There are some wonderful charity quilt groups like Linus or the recent Alzheimer's quilt drive. The same is true of the online quilting world where calls for help can spread like wildfire, spurring quilters into action in a reaction to any recent worldwide disasters. Quilts are often made to be raffled for a charity like the amazing MUMs recipe quilt seen here (and which you can buy tickets for today!). An American quilter Rachel of Stitched in Colour blog started a charity bee on Flickr in 2010. The "do. Good Stitches Charity Bee" is a Flickr group that now has 25 circles around the world, each making a new charity quilt every month. We now have a dedicated circle in the UK, the Together Circle, which contains 4 contributors to this exhibition. The circle members are divided between quilters and stitchers - each member completes 2 blocks every month and the quilters take a month each in turn to plan/design, put together and quilt that month's quilt, often posting tutorials on their blog. They can also decide which charity that month's quilt can be donated to. Charity bees are a wonderful way to spread love and hope throughout the world through sewing.