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A Common Thread: A Collection Of Quilts By Gwen Marston



Synopsis

Explore a life lived in stitches and witness the aesthetic evolution of a treasured quilting artist. Immerse yourself in the beauty of detailed, up-close photos that will inspire and delight you. Revel in this dazzling self-curated collection of Gwen Marston's more than five-decade passion for quilting. Her masterful body of work is presented in a single vibrant coffee table book of stunning photography for the first time ever. From her early pieces inspired by Mennonite quilts to her innovative work with applique and texture to her exploration of modern design, Gwen's aesthetic has remained a glorious marriage of freedom in construction, expert use of unexpected colors and negative space, and happy design surprises. See more than 80 quilts representing more than 40 years and a variety of styles--all united by a common thread: the artist Gwen Marston.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a beautiful collection of a wide variety of quilts. Another feature I really liked about this book is the two types of photos, one is the whole quilt and the other is an interesting cropping (closeup) of a section. Most of the quilts are made with solid colored fabric and a few are prints. Gwen Marston had a really great eye for interesting compositions and combinations of piecework and applique which can be surprising and unconventional which is what makes them beautiful. These artistic details continue on to her creative borders as well. If you are looking to be inspired to try new things with your quilts this book will give you lots of ideas and direction.

This is a wonderful collection of Gwen's quilts spanning 30 years of her creative vision and love affair with quilting. The layout of the book offers full sized photos followed by the detailed close ups needed to appreciate her quilting and design flourishes. Like Gwen's own exploration in quilting, this book takes you on a journey through many styles and techniques. Each page offers the reader inspiration and a deeper appreciation of Gwen's unique point of view. This book is truly a love letter to all the quilt makers that Gwen has inspired and encouraged and set on the path of individual creative expression. "A Common Thread" is sure to find its way into every quilter's home library. It is a book that will be enjoyed again and again.

Gwen Marston's newest book is candy for the eye and a feast for the creative soul. Juxtaposing a picture of each quilt with a close up (or two) is a brilliant design feature. If - God forbid! - I was told I could have only one of her books I would choose this one as it so beautifully covers her prolific and versatile career as a quilter.

An explosion of color. Now this is the kind of quilt book that I like, lots of pictures, and very few words. The quilts speak for their-selves. I finally know the mean. "A picture is worth a 1000 words".

A Common Thread: A Collection of Quilts by Gwen Marston is an excellent book. It is a portfolio of all her best works and is guaranteed to have you flipping through it over and over again. I have been fortunate enough to attend several of her workshops and her Beaver Island retreat. Each time I left Gwen I felt like my creativity cup was filled so full it was sloshing over the brim. There is an aura of inspiration around that Gwen Marston that will leave your mind spinning (in my case for years after sewing with her). This book is as close to flipping through her quilts as you can get without actually being able to do it in person. Gwen Marston knows all there is to know about quilting and is also able to share her knowledge in an easy approachable manner. All of Gwen Marston's books are fantastic, but this one for the pure unadulterated quilt photos takes the cake. There is a short Preface and then a Note From Gwen at the beginning of the book. The rest of the book is pictures. A clear, bright full photo of the entire quilt and on the facing page is a detail shot of a particularly interesting spot in the featured quilt. This book is similar to her small book 37 Sketches in that it is just pictures. I love that it is just pictures. I am at the place in my life where I don't need step by step instructions. I want to look at interesting quilts and figure out how the quilt maker made the piece. If you are looking for a book on Gwen Marston's unique and liberated method of quilt making try Liberated Quilting (I or II) or either of her Collaborative Quilting books. Buy this book with

confidence. It a great book and very welldone. Bravo Gwen for another superior book.

"A Common Thread" is an inspiring walk through Gwen Marston's 40 years of creative journey. Turning each page is like a quiet stroll through an exhibit in a museum or an upscale art gallery, only in a comfort of your home. A pioneer of improvisational quilting, with her liberated style, Gwen has created masterpieces ranging from traditional pieced patterns, appliqued folk art and medallion quilts to bold color studies in solids and minimal quilts. Imagine all that packed in one book with most beautiful photographs of each quilt paired with a full page detailed shot. It is a treat to see her quilts transition as she followed her heart, intuitive voice while keeping "No Rules" theory alive throughout her quilting years, liberating all of us in the process one way or another. I often find coffee table books too bulky and huge for comfortable reading. Filled with plenty of colors and textures "A Common Thread" is just the right size, each page speaking volumes! It is an artful publication of a superior quality, a must have photographic journey of Gwen Marston's timeless quilts.

A beautiful coffee table worthy retrospective of the work of quilting legend, Gwen Marston! Gwen's newest book is beautiful arranged and photographed. Each overall quilt image is paired on the opposite page with close up detail shots that allow the reader to easily see quilting stitches and all the other little details that go into these amazing quilts. I have been fortunate to see most of these quilts in person, but there were still one or two that I'd never seen before. This book is highly recommended for those long-time lovers of Gwen's work as well as those who simply appreciate the artistry of quilts. Gwen is a master and we are so lucky to have this retrospective in our collections.

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