

Quilting Arts
MAGAZINE

stitch

creating with fabric + thread

the *fabric* issue

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yard
gifts to sew in
an afternoon



+
the modern
Quilt
reinventing
a classic

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interweavestitch.com
fall 2010

ASHLEY NEWCOMB

filminthefridge.com

Through her blog, Ashley learned to quilt and found her calling. Her beautiful quilts range from simple and quick to detailed and time-consuming, with a focus on improvisational piecing and imaginative use of color.



Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN QUILTING AND HOW DID YOU START?

ASHLEY: I learned to sew at the end of 2007, when I discovered designer fabrics and started collecting them. I realized that I had better figure out some way to use these fabrics! I spent time browsing Flickr.com and started seeing gorgeous quilts that were unlike any I had seen—bright, colorful modern quilts. I made my first quilt top without a pattern. It's colorful and fun.

Q. HOW HAS YOUR BLOG AFFECTED YOUR QUILTING?

ASHLEY: Having a blog is such a great way to connect with so many people that I'd never have a chance to meet otherwise. When I began quilting, there were many blogs that opened my eyes to a whole new world of quilting. Without these blogs, I'm not sure I'd have realized this passion of mine. Now it makes me happy to think that my blog can help inspire new quilters.

Q. WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT MODERN QUILTING?

ASHLEY: I love that the sky's the limit in terms of what I could dream up and turn into a quilt. There's freedom in not relying on a pattern and letting the quilt evolve as I make up the various blocks.

Q. WHAT MAKES YOU A MODERN QUILTER?

ASHLEY: I describe my quilting style as modern because it's an easy way to distinguish my style from traditional quilting. I like to make quilts that mix and match great fabrics, use a lot of white (or some other solid color), are improvisationally pieced, include some quirky aspects, some wonkiness or small pieced details, and don't necessarily follow any set pattern.



The Unfurnished quilt (left) and Scattering of Hexagons quilt (right) feature Newcomb's graphic use of space and improv piecing.

her peers. The Modern Quilt Guild website (see info box, page 29) is one center of this buzzing online community, and with participants eager for face-to-face time as well, local chapters of the Modern Quilt Guild have formed, and members gather for lively in-person meetings.

For a craft with a reputation for following rules, this new, dynamic generation of quilters offers a fresh twist. The Internet, along with the open and accepting approach that's inherent in modern quilting, makes for a fun, flourishing, and exciting community. The trend toward contemporary design in quilting is just getting started, and every day new quilters join in the fun. The buzz around modern quilting is catching on, bringing new life and new style to this revered craft. To be a part of it, take a look at our resource list, visit the websites, join a chapter of the Modern Quilt Guild, and start your very own modern quilt.

ALISSA HAIGHT CARLTON has been obsessively quilting for the past three years. She is one of the founders of the Modern Quilt Guild and is co-writing a book titled *Block Party to be released in spring 2011*. When not quilting, she casts reality shows, including seasons 7 and 8 of *Project Runway*. She blogs at handmadebyalissa.com.

BLOGS/RESOURCES

These are just a few of the many blogs focusing on modern quilting style. Visit these leaders in the modern quilting movement for inspiration, conversation, tips, and tutorials.

A Quilt Is Nice
aquiltsnice.blogspot.com

A Stitch in Dye
stitchindye.blogspot.com

Rossie Blog
rossie.blogspot.com

Tallgrass Prairie Studio
tallgrassprairiestudio.blogspot.com

Sew Katie Did
sewkatieid.wordpress.com

Fresh Modern Quilts on Flickr
flickr.com/groups/freshmodernquilts