



## DOROTHY McMURDIE AWARD

# Judy Morningstar

The following introduction to the 2009 Dorothy McMurdie Award Winner was made by Karen Menzies :

**B**oard of Directors, former presidents, DMM honourees past and present, nominators, sister members of the CQA/ACC and anyone not already mentioned, it is with immense pleasure that I announce to you that the honouree for the 2009 Dorothy McMurdie award is Judy Morningstar.

For the past 30 years Judy has been involved in quilting as a teacher, a writer, a lecturer and a practitioner. Her work has been accepted into the CQA/ACC's *National Juried Show* and *Trend-Tex Quilter's Challenge*, *The Grand National*, as well as at numerous exhibitions of the Fibre Art Network. A popular workshop instructor, Judy taught in all 10 provinces in 2005. She has been a member of the workshop faculty for three CQA/ACC conferences (1996, 2006, and 2008); in 2003 she lectured at *Quilt NB*; she was a member of the Local Organizing Committee for *QC 2004*. In 2009 she and Dianne Jansson debuted the long-awaited Canadian Judge Certification Program here in Saskatoon.

Judy Morningstar has made a substantial contribution to the development of quilting in Canada over a significant period of time.

May I share with you the criteria that Judy has met?

**1** The nominee must be a member of CQA/ACC in good standing for at least two years prior to being nominated. Judy's

membership in CQA/ACC began in 1994. Clearly she has crashed through the 2 year barrier.

**2** The nominee must be a Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status for at least three years. This native daughter of Saskatchewan now resides in Manitoba. Even from my Ontario perspective this meets the citizenship requirement.

**3** The nominee should have displayed a technical mastery of the art of quilting. Her quilting is contemporary, based on traditional techniques. Once a hand quilter, she now creates by machine. Judy's body of work contains functional quilts, wallquilts, and wearable art. The listing of awards and exhibitions, substantially Canadian, on her résumé demonstrates Judy's technical mastery of the art of quilting.

**4** The nominee should by example encourage good design and creativity in the field of quilting. From 1983 to 2008 her work has been accepted into juried and invitational exhibitions in North America.

**5** The nominee must have exemplified qualities that have inspired others to become involved in the craft/art. Being honoured as Teacher of the Year 2006 demonstrated that Judy is a gifted artist with excellent communication skills: she can teach as well as create. The titles of her workshops are welcoming, although curious, and the content is doable. Glowing testimonials from former students verify that she has inspired others.

**6** The nominee should have held a responsible position in a quilt-related organization. As previously mentioned, she has been a member of the workshop faculty for three CQA/ACC conferences...she and Dianne Jansson introduced the Canadian Judge Certification Program here in Saskatoon. In 2007 Judy shared coordinator's duties for the FAN retreat. Notwithstanding these roles of significance fulfilled, she has not yet succumbed to a position on the CQA/ACC's Board of Directors, although I did try.

**7** The nominee should be a person who instills respect for the quilter and who has been successful in encouraging the public to appreciate quilting as an art form. Through professional memberships and writing for publications, as well as organizing invitational shows, Judy has presented the public with an opportunity to appreciate quilting as an art form. In September 2008, she participated in *Connections*, a three person show held in Winnipeg. You can still see the flyer on one of the seven pages which come up when you Google her name. Her enthusiastic participation in the *CQA/ACC Trend-Tex Quilter's Challenge* is noteworthy, as well. Those who know her eagerly anticipate the annual creation; those who don't know her are amazed. For those of us competing "against" her, it's a moment of truth.



**8** The nominee may be one or more of the following: quilter, teacher, author, researcher, historian, collector, or editor of a quilting publication. Judy is a teacher, a quilter, a writer and an engaging speaker. She is an avid collector of friends.

**9** The nominee should have been clearly supportive of CQA/ACC for a significant period of time. (E.g. enthusiastically promoted CQA/ACC or contributed to the newsletter or attended conferences, etc.) In her TOY 2006 acceptance speech Judy paused for a commercial in support of Canadian teachers. "CQA has compiled an extensive list of

Canadian quilt teachers who would like to come to your guild to share their expertise...There are so many talented Canadian quilt teachers, and I would encourage you to teacher-shop in Canada. Unless we have dual citizenship, we cannot legally teach in the USA, although Americans are allowed to teach here. So, try us Canadian teachers out – we're not as visible, but darn we're good!" (*The Canadian Quilter*, autumn 2006, page 15.)



*When Shall We Be Free*, 69.5" w x 70.5" high, 1999

**Nominators:** Karen Menzies, Joyce O'Connell, and Bonny Voice.

## We all have dreams

**W**e all have dreams: dreams about what we want to accomplish, dreams of hopes and aspirations coming true.

Receiving the Dorothy McMurdie award actually never was one of my dreams. I just never dreamt of myself as McMurdie material. But three persistent friends, Karen Menzies, Joyce O'Connell, and Bonny Voice, thought I was. And so they have made this dream, that I didn't dare to imagine, come true. I am humbled by all the written support from so many quilters across Canada who also wanted me to have this award. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I have been the luckiest person in the world to have had so many of my dreams come true. For the last 33 years, in so many ways, I have been able to express my creative voice through the medium of fabric and stitch.

There were lots of stumbling blocks, and some of the dreams became nightmares. But I have taken the opportunity to try them all out. And, at the end of my life I will be able to say: "Been there, done that".

A great deal of credit goes to my husband, poor Bill, who waved goodbye to me more often than he wanted, who managed without his combine or tractor driver or cook in the busiest of seasons on the farm more often than was practical, who looked after our

boys while their mom was away or busy sewing when it wasn't a bit convenient for him. He recognized the importance of what I was doing, and helped me make it happen. I know that kind of support does not happen in every quilter's home. It makes me sad when I hear quilters say how they have to hide their stash and purchases. I would like to tell them that their needs are just as valid as the needs of the other members of their family.

One of my friends, who had just turned 40, was Supermom. She went everywhere and did everything to support her three pre-teen kids' activities. One day she said to me, "I had goals of my own, and dreams of what I was going to do for myself, just as soon as the kids were grown." At that time, she was hooked up to machines in the hospital, and had six days left to live. She never managed to fulfill those dreams that were just for her.

Gregory Charles said "You can waste your life having dreams, but you can never waste your life having projects". Not knowing how to do something is no reason to never start. I was a 4H member, then leader for about 30 years. Their motto is "Learn to do by doing". Making some dreams come true is a lot of hard work. And it is pretty scary to start something new when you don't have a hot furry clue what you are doing. And in the middle, when nothing is working out right,



*Shootout at the Old Carpal Tunnel*, 43" square, 1996

it is not a bit of fun at all. But, the only way to learn is to do it. With perseverance, your project could end up being just the best!!!

The best part of my quilting career has been meeting other quilters from all parts of Canada. Many have become close friends. Thank you to all those brave souls who, sight unseen, volunteered to take me into their homes when I was teaching in their community. You hold a special place in my memories and in my heart. Traveling across Canada has taught me lots about this magnificent country we call home, and I thank you for sharing and showing your place with me.

My teaching dreams are over. But there are still lots of quilts in my dreams, just waiting to be made. And this award is one dream come true that I will always treasure.