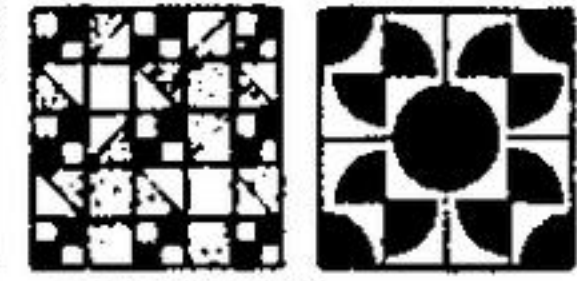


# Quilting: A 'comfortable' exhibition illustrates quilting's rise from practical handicraft to popular art

One of the most ambitious exhibitions yet assembled in the gallery at the new Halton Hills library-cultural centre is giving visitors a surprising look at one of our oldest handicrafts — one that is enjoying renewed public interest. A "quilting revival" of sorts is upon us.

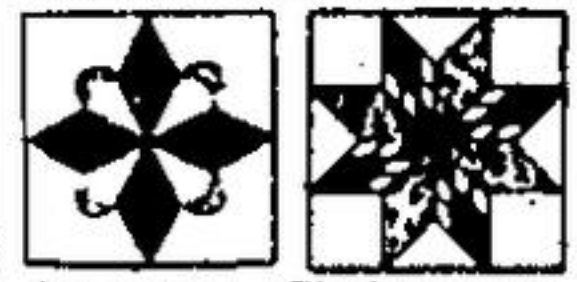
Joan Albert's "Quilts and Other Comforts" show, which continues at the gallery until Saturday, employs samples of quilting by more than 30 artisans to reflect the public's growing appreciation for the craft's aesthetic potential.



Where quilts were once merely a functional household item, today's quilters are using a variety of bright and imaginative designs to put their labors of love on a level with fine painting. A perusal of the gallery walls, filled with all shapes and sizes of colorful quilts, confirms the art form's ready adaptability to such exhibitions.

Mrs. Albert teaches quilting to growing numbers of local YMCA and night school students, finding that her younger converts have many fresh ideas for design, if not technique. The modern quilter uses traditional sewing techniques, some dating back centuries, as a base on which to develop truly artistic designs.

Mrs. Albert has been greeting visitors of all ages and backgrounds at the gallery, explaining some of the history of quilting and filling them in



on details about specific works. Quilting, she explains, is sewing several layers of cloth together, usually with an insulated middle layer. The ancient Chinese are said to have first appreciated quilting's practical qualities when they used it to make their clothes warm and soft.

While quilting flourished over the centuries throughout Asia and parts of Africa, it reached a new peak of popularity in 17th century Europe. In England and Italy in particular, the decorative aspect of the craft began to fully emerge.

In more recent times, applique and patchwork have opened new doors for quilters, the latter technique a specialty among North Americans, who made good use of worn clothing and other scraps of material to fashion functional and often attractive quilts for beds and other uses.

Among the collection at the gallery, several quilts sized for children's cribs represent continuing regard for practical uses, but from the large wall



Surrounded by examples showing just how far quilting has come in its popular resurgence, Joan Albert (right) and one of her advanced students, Debble Livingston of Harvey, have been greeting visitors to the current show at the Halton Hills

library-cultural centre gallery, entitled "Quilts and Other Comforts". Continuing until Saturday, the show gives viewers a surprising glimpse of the level to which the art form has risen in the hands of today's inventive and creative artisans.

hangings to tiny pillows and cushions to odd-shaped creations and eye-catching handbags, quilting's artistic value is evident. Among the more striking samples are a quilted jacket by Debbie Livingston, a wall hanging using a figurative batik design by children's librarian Judi Starkey, Carmela Cobham's award-winning and geometrically-exacting bed quilt and of course Mrs. Albert's own formidable creations.

Other quilters participating

in the show are Susan Sciberras, Janice Fread, K. Quinn, Christine Pearson, Anne DeKloer, Janice Visser, Beth Rodner, Reta Christensen, Gail Spence, Susan Doole, Joanne Ingram, Frances Ewanusiw, Cheryl Potosky, Gina Joliffe, Marcia Peacock, Pat Norris, Shirley Cleave, Marguerite Kennedy, Betty Johnston, Louise Rundle, Mina Melvin, Sharon Jacques, Marilyn Allen, Carol Hall, Dorothy Crawford, Sandi Bowman, Wendy Bishop, Karen Whit-

## And applique, too

This Saturday — the final day for the "Quilts and Other Comforts" exhibition at the library-cultural centre gallery — Mrs. Albert will conduct an applique workshop. Quilters and those interested in this aspect of applying one cloth design to another are welcome to attend from 2 to 4 p.m., but check with Georgetown library staff first about pre-registration. The library phone number is 877-3681.

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## Showtime!

The second concert of the Halton Hills Arts Council's Twilight Series will be held at Acton High School next Wednesday (Jan. 27) at 8 p.m. and will star Sears and Switzer.

Theresa Sears and David Switzer perform a splendid satirical music revue on modern life. Their neatly trimmed song and dance jibes and jokes are cabaret at its entertaining best. They exhibit all elements of charm and wit, intelligence and energy, polish and skill, in their wild two-handed romp.

The comedy team of Sears and Switzer have appeared regularly on such CBC national shows as the Bob McLean Show, Wayne and Shuster, Don Harmon's Morningtide, various variety superspecials and Arts National. In addition many of their sketches were featured on TV Ontario's Role Calls show on the changing roles of women. Their theatre experiences include representing Canada at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, several long running commercial revue shows and musicals in Toronto including An Evening with Sears and Switzer.

Rush tickets will be available at the door for \$10 (adult) and \$5 (student or senior citizen). To reach Acton High School from Georgetown, take Highway 7 west to Churchill Road. Turn right on Churchill Road and proceed to Cedar Road. Turn right on Churchill Road and proceed to Cedar Road. Turn right on Cedar, which will take you directly into the school parking lot. It will be a delightfully funny evening.

Today a few thoughts about the Arts Council itself are in order. President Elizabeth Shore is pleased to announce that the Council's pledge of \$20,000 for the Cultural Centre has been met. A giant thankyou goes out to all who participated in the many fund-raising projects carried out. A special thanks to the Georgetown, Rug Hookers and to John Roe.

The Arts Council is engaged in an ongoing project to provide an Arts Directory for the local area. We are interested in artists, crafts people, musicians, historians and performing artists. If you fit into one of these categories or know someone who does, contact Pat Beer at 877-4740.

Coming to the John Elliott Theatre: the Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company performing Alice in Wonderland. This highly regarded professional troupe is being sponsored by the Halton Hills School of Dancing. There will be one performance only Feb. 6. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children. They may be obtained by phoning 877-1581.

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Music and lyrics by Walter Bratty, Dan Keaton, The B. B. King

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Sat., Sun. at 4:30, 7:00, 9:20 p.m.

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**PAUL SALLY  
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