**Susan Else, Sculpture**

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###### I describe my work as "stealth art": the comfortable ambiance of sewn cloth draws viewers in, where they are confronted with the uncomfortable paradoxes of contemporary life. My work is part of the art quilt movement, but I am one of the few artists making figurative sculpture--often incorporating sound, light, and movement--from this medium. I use vibrant cloth to create an alternate universe, and the resulting work is whimsical, edgy, mundane, surreal, and engaging, all at once. The power and beauty of the collaged and quilted surface play off the form and narrative content of the work, resulting in a dynamic seesaw of meanings and possibilities. My sculpture often incorporates cloth-covered bones, a powerful symbol evoking both human mortality and human history. I am interested in daily life and its instant mutability, and my best work conflates conflicting human impulses into a single image.

###### Solo Exhibitions San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA, 2018

###### Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, CA, 2017

###### Visions Art Museum, San Diego, CA, 2017

###### Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA, 2013-14

National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY, 2011  
Back Porch Gallery, Pacific Grove, CA, 2010  
San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA, 2007  
Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA, 2002  
Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2000

**Grants**

National Endowment for the Arts, installation for Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, 2019

### Public Collections

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose, California

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, California

Kaiser Permanente, San Jose, California

Kamm Teapot Foundation, Sparta, North Carolina

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

Form, Not Function, Carnegie Center for Art & History, New Albany, IN, 2022

Excellence in Quilts, Fiber Art Now magazine, 2022

Intersect Chicago (SOFA), Studio Art Quilt Associates exhibit, 2021 and 2020

Interpretations, Visions Art Museum, San Diego, CA, 2021

Structures, Studio Art Quilt Associates virtual exhibit, 2021

Off the Wall, Center for the Arts, Grass Valley, CA 2021

Land Art, Studio Art Quilt Associates virtual exhibit, 2020

Craft Nouveau, Blue Line Arts, Roseville, CA, 2020

Women Pathmakers, Euphrat Museum of Art, Cupertino, CA, 2020

Stitching California, Grace Hudson Museum, Ukiah, CA, 2019, and traveling with Exhibit

Envoy, 2020-22

Layered and Stitched: 50 Years of Innovative Art; Texas Quilt Museum; San Jose Museum of

Quilts & Textiles; Ross Art Museum, Delaware, OH; Dairy Barn Art Center, Athens, OH;

2020-2022.

Things that Matter, Visions Art Museum, San Diego, 2018

Expressions of Identity: 40th Anniversary Exhibition, San Jose Museum of Quilts &Textiles,

2017-18

H2OH!, Studio Art Quilt Associates, National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY, 2017; Arizona

Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson; San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

California Art Quilt Revolution, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, 2016

Stories of Migration: Contemporary Artists Interpret Diaspora, The Textile Museum,

Washington, D.C. 2016

By Hand, Blue Line Arts, Roseville, CA, 2016

Yuma Symposium Presenter Exhibition, Yuma, AZ, 2016

Form, Not Function, Carnegie Center for Art & History, New Albany, IN, 2015

Radical Elements, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 2015

Retrospective of past exhibitions, Osilas Gallery, Bronxville, New York, 2015

Milestones, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, 2013  
Layered and Stitched, 2012, Blue Line Arts, Roseville, CA

Art Quilt Elements 2012, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA   
The Teapot Redefined, Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA, 2013, 2008, 2007  
Tactile Architecture 2011-12, 2005-06 and 2003-04, Houston, Chicago, and Pittsburgh

Celebration, National Quilt Museum, Paducah, Kentucky, 2011

Visual Conversations with Women in the Arts, 2009-2011; UC Santa Cruz

Volusia Wrapped in Fiber, Gateway Center for the Arts, DeBary, FL, 2011

Sew New: Contemporary Artist Quilts, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, 2010

Quilt National 2009 and 2005, Athens, OH, and touring

Sculpture Is, Pajaro Valley Art Gallery, Watsonville, CA, 2009 and 2006

Modern Materials, Untitled Art Space, Oklahoma City, 2009, and Tulsa, 2010

Figuratively Speaking, Visions Art Quilt Gallery, San Diego, CA, 2008

Bloodline, University Art Gallery, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, 2008

Puzzled and Board, New England Quilt Museum, Lowell, MA, 2008

Quilts = Art = Quilts 2007, Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, NY

Santa Cruz Artists Look to the Boardwalk, Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, 2007

Harmony: On the Wall, Off the Wall, Huntsville Museum of Arts, Huntsville, AL, 2007

Changing the World, One Thread at a Time, Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac, AZ, 2007

Virginia Breier Gallery, San Francisco, 2005-06

**Selected Publications**

“Not Just Blinky Lights,” artist profile, Textile Fibre Forum, March 2021

How Art Heals, Andra Stanton, Schiffer Publishing, 2021

"We Live Here: A Commission Focusing on Community," Art Quilt Quarterly, 2019

Art Quilts Unfolding: 50 Years of Innovation, Sandra Sider, ed., Schiffer Publishing, 2018

Dimensional Cloth: Sculpture by Contemporary Textile Artists, Andra Stanton, Schiffer

Publishing, 2018

Without a Net: The Artwork of Susan Else, San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, 2018

Artistry in Fiber: Sculpture, Anne Lee and E. Ashley Rooney, 2017

"Excellence in Fiber," special edition of Fiber Art Now, Winter 2017

"Susan Else: Content Wrapped in Whimsy," Fiber Art Now, Spring 2016

The Ultimate Guide to Art Quilting, Linda Seward, Sixth and Spring Books, 2014

The Quilt Show (internet television program), episode airing October 2013

“What’s New,” Niche Magazine, 2013

“Susan Else’s Make-Believe World,” The Quilt Life, August 2013

“The Art Quilt is What They Say it Is,” American Style, Summer 2012

The Studio Quilt, No. 8: Quilted Sculpture, Sandra Sider, 2012

“Quilting in Three Dimensions,” Art Quilting Studio, Winter 2012

Quilting Art: Inspiration, Ideas, and Innovative Work from 20 Contemporary Quilters,

Gillespie, 2009

Mixed Media Self-Portraits: Inspiration and Techniques, Prato, 2008

The Art of Quilting (PBS documentary, 2007)

The Quilt, A History and Celebration of an American Art Form, pp 230-31, Roberts, 2007

Quilting Arts Magazine, 6-page profile, Oct.-Nov. 2007

**Professional Affiliations**

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Board of Directors 2015-21