



Meet

Karen Malzan



I teach:

- Fiber Art

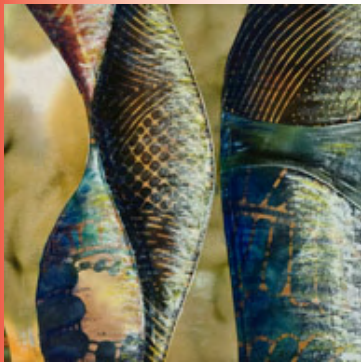
My Education:

Where it concerns art I learned most of what I know at my mother's knee, poring over art books, looking at my grandmother's paintings (oil and water-color), my other grandmother's sculptures, living with a lot of very minimalist Japanese art and Bauhaus design in our house growing up. After working for daily newspapers and magazines as a journalist for about 15 years, I became a traditional quilt maker and teacher for about 10 years until, in 1998, I "crossed over" into fiber art during a workshop with quilt artist Nancy Crow.



About My Teaching:

Since 1998, I have taught and published the technique I've developed for creating fiber art in Germany, Switzerland and the USA to groups of various sizes and skill levels and in international magazines as well as Arizona-wide publications. My goal in teaching is to help every student to find true pleasure in creating artwork. My students know the chant: "There will be no agonizing".



In my classes we work with cotton fabric that can be hand dyed, commercially printed or painted. It is cut and sewn into what I call "landscapes". There is much discussion and learning about topics like: line, shape, contrast, creating depth, proportion, values, color intensity and temperature, just to name a few. We look at how the fabrics interact with each other, learn how to create simple, yet satisfyingly complex compositions and observe during the creative process what is developing before us so we can catch those coveted happy accidents and incorporate them into our work. We appreciate that every "problem" is actually an opportunity for us to become more creative. Very often the entire class will "huddle" around the work of someone who has gotten stuck, and we all participate in finding a solution, which gives everyone a chance to learn another new approach.

Creating artwork requires taking risks. To do this in class it is absolutely necessary to maintain an atmosphere governed by a strong spirit of trust and respect for each other. My job as a teacher is to ensure that this atmosphere can develop and that it remains intact at all times, so that there is no fear of judgment, which would be counterproductive to maximum creativity.

