

# Dena Dale Crain

Online Curriculum Vitae  
<https://www.denadalecrain.com>

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## Motivational Statement

My teaching focus has always been on helping others grow as patchwork quilt designers and makers. I have no interest in teaching others to make quilts from patterns or kits; rather, I encourage them to pull from within to satisfy their needs for self-expression through quilting. I encourage every student to approach art quilting, for I believe every person has within them the necessary, but perhaps as yet untapped, resources to make quilts as art. I teach several different methods of designing, each one intended to provide a kind of roadmap that students are free to explore on their own. I also develop and teach technical skills that permit students to make whatever they can design. To encourage and help others to delve within for imagery and ideas, and to empower them with unusual construction techniques, to help them find the self-confidence and courage of their ideas and plans—these are my devotions and my strengths as a teacher.

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## Education and Training

- Bachelor of Science in Fashion Design, University of Cincinnati, Ohio 1972
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in Art/Anthropology, University of Cincinnati, Ohio 1977
- Master of Science in Textiles, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 1992
- Participant in Quilt Surface Design Symposium 1996 (14 days), 1998 (14 days) and 2007 (7 days) - studied color, printing, and color layers with Sue Benner; printing, resists and discharge with Kathleen Deneris; dyeing, discharge, sketching and appliqué with Velda Newman; marketing with Penny McMorris; dyeing and dye painting with Ann Johnston; abstract design with Jane Sassaman, improvisational design with Nancy Crow and a master class, Beneath the Surface, with Arturo Alonzo Sandoval
- Participant in South African Quilters Guild National Festival, Johannesburg, South Africa 2000 (6 days) - studied with Carol Bryer Fallert for design and piecing, Rosalie Dace for African quilts, Barbara Chainey for sashiko and hand quilting, Angela Madden for design and piecing, Macky Cilliers for fabric weaving, Di van Niekerk for silk ribbon embroidery
- Participant in Studio Art Quilt Associates Conferences, 2003, 2005, 2007: Athens, Ohio, USA; 2014: Alexandria, Virginia, USA
- Participant in “Lines, Curves, Circles & Figure/Ground Composition,” by Nancy Crow, Drakensburgs, South Africa, August 2009
- South African Quilters Guild Judge Certification Training, 2009-2011; certificate awarded June 26, 2011
- South African Quilters Guild Recommended Teacher, awarded October, 2018

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## Exhibitions

- Kenya Arts Diary Exhibition, Alliance Française, and Launch, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Nairobi, Kenya, 2018
- Carrefour Européen du Patchwork, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, France, 2018
- Kenya Quilt Guild, National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, 2018
- Kenya Quilt Guild, Sarit Centre, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya, 2016
- Quarke (Quilt Artists of Kenya), Karen Country Club, Nairobi, Kenya, 2012
- “The Quilts of East Africa,” Ailsa Craig, Canada, 2008
- “Transformations ‘07: Reverberations;” juried exhibition opening at the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham, England at The National Exhibition Centre, August 16-19, 2007 and traveling internationally for the following year
- Kuona Trust Exhibition at The GoDown Arts Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, 2006
- Bizarre Bazaar, Langata, Kenya, 2006
- Piecing a Quilt of Life, York County Museum, Rock Hill, North Carolina, USA, 2003-2004
- Jamhuri Christmas Craft Fair, Nairobi, Kenya, 2003
- Village Market Exhibition Hall, Nairobi, joint exhibition with potter Larry Oughton, 2003
- 10th Carrefour Européen du Patchwork, Saint-Marie-aux-Mines, France, 2003
- Legend House, Wilson Airport, Nairobi, solo exhibition, 2001
- South African Quilters Guild National Festival, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2000
- Kenya Quilt Guild Exhibitions, Village Market Exhibition Hall, Nairobi, annually from 2000-2006
- Karen Country Club, Nairobi, 2000
- Product Design and Development Centre, Nairobi, solo exhibition, 2000 (held over)
- Village Market Exhibition Hall, Nairobi, solo exhibition, 1998
- Karen Country Club, Nairobi, 1997

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## Art Quilts in Public Places

- “Guardian,” “Jua Kali,” “Conversation Piece,” and “The Future Is Now,” commissioned works, The Rockefeller Foundation, Nairobi, 2004
- “Doorway to Africa” and “Mednat,” US Embassy to Kenya, Nairobi, 2001
- “Tribute to Ethiopia: Axum, Gondar, Harrar, and Lalibela,” commissioned 4-panel work, Aksum Lounge of the Nairobi Serena Hotel, 2001

—“Terminal Smoking May Be Hazardous to Your Health,” commemorates the life of the artist’s mother who died of lung cancer in 1999, Oncology Wing of St. Luke Hospital East, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, 2000

—“Aftermath,” commemorates the bombing of the US Embassies to Kenya and Tanzania, US Embassy to Kenya, Nairobi, 1998

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## Judging/Jurying

—One of three judges for the Visions Art Museum 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition: Interpretations, 2017

—One of five judges for outdoors art displays at Village Market, Nairobi, 2013

—Online judge (one of many) for a USDD special program to encourage children to make art, 2012

—Sole judge of Kuwait Textile Arts Association, Kuwait City, 2010

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## Teaching

At all venues listed below, I taught up to 26 students per class, and I taught classes that are the same as, or a derivation from, the classes I offer online. I no longer have records of which specific classes I taught at each venue, nor more specific dates. At all major venues (IQF, New Zealand Quilt Symposium, Quilt Canada, etc.) I taught a full schedule, up to seven days, plus lectures. These major venues formed the backbone for briefer stints teaching one or two days for nearby guilds.

—National Quilters Association, Columbus, Ohio, 2014

—New Zealand Quilt Symposium, Taupo, New Zealand, 2013

—Noosa, Australia, 2013

—Melbourne, Waverly and Buxton, Australia, 2013

—International Quilt Convention, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2012

—Quilt Canada, Calgary, Canada, 2010

—Out of the Box fiber artists’ group, Ottawa, Canada, 2010

—The Running Stitch, Ottawa, Canada, 2010

—Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild, Ottawa, Canada, 2010

—Cotton-by-Post, London, Canada, 2010

—Las Vegas Quilters and Desert Quilters Guilds, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, 2010

—Kuwait Textile Arts Association, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 2010

—International Quilt Festival/Chicago, Rosemont, Illinois, USA, 2009

- Quiltec Fabrics, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2009
- Wellington Quilt Symposium, Wellington, New Zealand, 2009
- Waikato Patchworkers and Quilters Guild, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2009
- Grey Valley Quilters, Reefton, New Zealand, April 2009
- Queensland Quilters, Brisbane, Australia, 2009
- Be Creative by the Sea, Coff's Harbour, Australia, 2009
- 15th European Patchwork Festival, Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, France, 2009
- Twisted Threads Festival of Quilts, Birmingham, England, 2008
- Seattle Quilt Company, Aberdeen, Scotland, 2008
- Golden Rand Quilters Guild, "Shosholozza" South African National Quilt Festival, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2008
- Invitational post-festival guild teaching in Cape Town, South Africa, 2008
- Cotton-by-Post's "The Quilts of East Africa Exhibition and Festival," Ailsa Craig, Canada, 2008
- International Quilt Festival/Houston, Houston, Texas, 2008
- Caithness Quilters, Wick, Scotland, 2005
- Good Hope Quilters Guild National Quilt Festival, Cape Town, South Africa. 2002

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## Online Teaching

- Quilt University: Structured Fabrics, Darned Quilts, Math for Quilters, Reflections, Crystal Quilts, Goodbye to the Grid, Designer Pinwheels; 2004-2013
- QuiltEd Online: Structured Fabrics, Darned Quilts, Math for Quilters, Reflections, Crystal Quilts, Goodbye to the Grid, Designer Pinwheels; Bind Quilts by Machine; 2014-2016
- Academy of Quilting: Darned Quilts, Bind Quilts by Machine, Math for Quilters, Reflections (more coming as fast as I can get them uploaded!); 2018-

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## Lectures

- "World of Color," Buxton, Australia, 2013
- "Dena Crain: Art Quilter in Africa," New Zealand Quilt Symposium, Wellington, New Zealand, and Be Creative by the Sea, Coff's Harbour, Australia, 2009
- "Recent Works," East African Women's League, Nakuru Branch, Nakuru, Kenya, April 2007
- "Studio Art Quilt Associates' Portfolio 13: Quilting as Art," Karen Country Club, Karen, Kenya, 2007

- “Computer-Aided Design for Quilters,” Good Hope Quilters’ Guild National Quilt Festival, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2002
- “Introduction to Patchwork Quilting as Art,” East African Women’s League, Burnbrae Branch, Nairobi, Kenya, 2001
- “Perspective on Patchwork: One Artist’s Experience,” Karen Country Club Ladies’ Luncheon, Karen, Kenya, 2000
- “Patchwork Quilting as an Art Form,” East African Women’s League, Karen/Langata Branch, Langata, Kenya, 1999

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## Publications

**Website:** <https://www.denadalecraim.com>

### **Ebooks published on Smashwords but now available from most major online booksellers including Apple and Amazon:**

- How to Make a Mosquito Net From Fully Illustrated Instructions (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/122362>)
- Bind Quilts by Machine (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/549038>)
- Designer Pinwheels, Art Quilts with a Twist (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/554106>)
- Sudoku Quilts (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/569526>)
- Structured Fabrics: Checks, Plaids and Stripes (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/576801>)

### **Magazine articles:**

- “Step by Step Pricing Tutorial,” SAQA Journal, Volume 28, No. 1, Winter 2018
- Studio Art Quilt Associates’ “Portfolio 12,” October 2005; “Portfolio 13,” October 2006; “Portfolio 14,” October 2007; “Portfolio 15,” October 2008 and so on through Portfolio 23 (series now discontinued)
- “What is an African Quilt?,” Quiltposium, Summer 2011
- “Quilting in Kenya,” Quiltposium, Spring 2011
- SAQA Journal, Vol. 18, No. 3, Summer 2008, p. 22-23
- New Zealand Quilter magazine, Issue 62, January 2008, p. 39
- Cotton Spice e-zine, June 2007 (Quilt Pattern) and October 2007
- From the Sewing Room e-zine, “That’s My Story . . .,” October 2007
- “Your own web site: What are you waiting for?,” SAQA Journal, Volume 16, No. 1, Winter 2006

- "From the Bedroom to the Boardroom," Executive Magazine, Nairobi, 1999
- Various articles for the Kenya Quilt Guild monthly newsletter, dealing with issues of interest to quilters
- "Symmetry Analysis Applied to Textile Design," with Ira Block, Ars Textrina, Vol. 16, December 1991
- "How Patchwork Quilting Changes Women's Lives", 2011

**Online Classes at Academy of Quilting (<https://www.academyofquilting.com>):**

Published:

- Darned Quilts
- Bind Quilts by Machine
- Math for Quilters
- Reflections
- Structured Fabrics

Unpublished (but soon to be re-published):

- Designer Pinwheels
- Crystal Quilts
- Goodbye to the Grid

**Patterns as presented on my site, sold by Craftsy:**

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| — <u><a href="#">Humdinger</a></u>  | — <u><a href="#">Fractures</a></u>  | — <u><a href="#">All That Glitters</a></u> |
| — <u><a href="#">Calligraph</a></u> | — <u><a href="#">Windmill</a></u>   | — <u><a href="#">Fantasy</a></u>           |
| — <u><a href="#">Victoria</a></u>   | — <u><a href="#">Two Hearts</a></u> | — <u><a href="#">Lilac and Clover</a></u>  |

**Publications about my life and work:**

- "Online Opportunities Abound," by Katie Shaiken, SAQA Journal, Summer 2015
- "Irish Abroad: Linda Martin Interviews Dena Crain on Quilting and Africa," Irish Quilting, Issue 18
- "Inside the World of International Teaching," by Lynne Davis, SAQA Journal, Volume 20, No.4, Fall 2010
- "Teach Online to Expand Your Audience," SAQA Journal, Volume 19, No. 4, Fall 2009
- "SAQArtique: Critique Groups on SAQA University," by Eileen Doughty, Volume 18, No. 4, Fall 2008
- "Framing Art Quilts: Free Versus Fine Finish," by Elizabeth van Shaik, Volume 18, No. 3, Summer 2008
- Symposium Tutor Profiles, New Zealand Quilter, 2008
- "500 Art Quilts: An Inspiring Collection of Contemporary Work," Lark Books, 2010 (ISBN-10: 1600590586; ISBN-13: 978-1600590580)

—“Quilts Around the World,” Spike Gillespie, Voyageur Press, China, 2010 (ISBN 978-0-7603-3744-8) ----SAQA Journal, Vol. 18, No. 3, Summer 2008, p. 22-23

—“Crossing Continents,” by Elizabeth Fuchs, Popular Patchwork, October 2004

—Quilter's S.O.S., Quilt Alliance by Karen Musgrave, 2006

—"Into Africa: Dena Crain," by Donna Williams, Australian Quilters, 2013

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## Professional Affiliations and Awards

—Inclusion of work "All That Jazz" into the Kenya Arts Diary 2019

—Served on SAQA Membership Benefits Committee, 2013

—Certified as South Africa Quilters Guild Judge, 2011, and Recommended Teacher, 2018

—Award of a Bernina Quilter's Edition 440 Sewing Computer as Sponsorship, 2011

—Sponsorship by Aurifil Threads, 2010

—Tuition Scholarship to Quilt Surface Design Symposium, 2007

—Nominated for “The Professional Quilter” Quilt Teacher of the Year award, Professional Quilter Magazine, 2006

—Cofounder and member of the Kenya Quilt Guild since 1996; founder of Quilt Artists of Kenya, 2012

—Member of Studio Art Quilt Associates since 2000; Juried Artist Member; Africa Zone Rep from 2000-2010

—Member of American Quilter's Society from 1993 - 1998

—Member of East African Women's League from 1994-2010; judge of crafts, quilts, and fine arts in the annual Homecrafts Exhibition, 1996-2010