

The Rag Spring 2008

Spring is here—I think. We have had warm days, rain, snow—quite a mixed bag. When you live in or near the mountains one never knows what to expect. It's always a surprise. We get excited when we have a really warm day and rush to the garden shops to see all the colorful flowers—but reality takes hold and we wait for the time around Mother's Day for planting.

For the last few weeks I've been working on an article for THREADS. The theme is redesign and reinvent fabrics. Many techniques are presented and I think you'll enjoy it. I believe it will be out in the Aug/Sept. issue, so look for it in your very own mailbox or at your favorite fabric store.

We've had a great response to the new pattern, In The Studio 12, Bolero & Scarves. Since last we talked and I shared the news about the first 7 jackets and 4 scarves I made, I've just kept on going. It is so easy and fun to make. I'm up to jacket #13 already and I still have more ideas. Three of them are needle felted...but I don't want to give away too much information because I'm connecting with an editor for another article. One jacket is from double sided commercial wool that has an interesting pattern on each side, a dark teal on one side with cross lines in lighter teal and a spider web effect on the other with the darker teal showing through. The 12th jacket is mostly kimono fabric with piecing all around on the band. I don't usually gravitate toward the color yellow, but this one is quite pretty. I'll try to get a picture on the website soon. The 13th jacket was made for the THREADS article, so you'll get to see it soon. I will tell you that it is made with recycled kimono scraps. Let's see how many different ideas you can challenge me (or yourself) with in creating your jacket. I look forward to hearing from you. Remember, this jacket is unlined and has only 5 major pieces with optional cuffs....so very easy!

I just received an email from a college student who wanted my opinion about the difference between art and craft. Her teacher said that sewing was not considered an art form but merely a craft. Whoa! Let's back this up! I presume that she is not an art teacher or she would have a different take on the subject.

Just because someone has a brush and paints does not mean they turn out ART. The medium is not the bottom line...it's the outcome and what the response is to the work. I find it isn't the piece of paper that makes you an artist. I have always been curious and loved to experiment, especially with fabrics. I have been creating, sewing, teaching, traveling, writing articles and books for DECADES, and I'm still

active and learning new things. My college student asked “if textile art is mainly needle and thread”...no, it’s quite a bit more. How many times have we admired a collage, a 3-dimensional design, an ancient fragment or even a simple line? An art piece is made to give joy and pleasure to the viewer.

“One seeks to become an artist by training the hand.

Then you find that the eye needs improving

Later you learn that it is the mind that wants developing,

Only to discover that art resides in the spirit.” Author Unknown

Letter from a “Very Satisfied Customer”:

“Hi, I just wanted to tell you that I had not sewn anything in 30 years when my sister offered me her old sewing machine. I didn’t say yes or no. But by chance, I found myself next to a G Street Fabrics store and wandered in out of curiosity. All the patterns looked just as I remembered, i.e., as if they would look homemade if I tried to sew them. But as I was leaving the pattern department, I looked at what I thought at first was sewing pamphlets and discovered that they were *In the Studio* patterns. I’m also an antique dealer who happened on a wonderful stash of cashmere fabric and bakelite buttons. Long story short: I ordered a pattern from you, made it up on that old machine in black cashmere and everyone thinks I bought this jacket in New York City!

I’ve since bought three more of your patterns and gotten a hugely expensive machine and lots more vintage sewing stuff. People still ask me where I buy my clothes. Your designs do not look homemade! I am so pleased to be sewing again and probably would never have done it if I’d been stuck with Vogue or McCalls. I just wanted you to know and to say thanks.”

Sincerely, Elizabeth McEneaney

We are having a Springtime Special with some of our patterns and batik fabrics on sale. The patterns on sale are: #332 Suitable Threads, #333 What a Sport, #335 Front & Center, #338 Pick a Pocket and #339 The Big Easy. These patterns are \$6 each, including p& h.

The rayon batik fabrics are \$10/yard, while supplies last. With a minimum purchase of one yard of fabric, you will receive one of the following books for free with your order: What Goes Around, Options, Opening & Closing.

Note: Since these specials are for our Rag customers and are not listed on our website, please pay us directly with a credit card or check. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Have a pleasant spring! Lois