

About Rita

Rita is an expert at imagining and creating colorful patterns and loves to explore the endless design possibilities and construction options available by using strips which are sewn into tubes.

Since 1980 she has been fine tuning her design and patterning skills while developing her technique. Rita is process oriented and works intuitively with lots of experimentation and mistakes. She prefers to think of her mistakes as intuitive decisions.

Rita strives to raise the awareness of quilting as an art form and has received a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Idaho Commission of the Arts: 2006. She is the author of the book "Totally Tubular Quilts": 2003 and has been featured in an episode of Simply Quilts / HGTV: 2004. Rita is also a National Bernina Artisan.

Her energy and enthusiasm for sharing her technique and expertise are evident in the workshops and lectures she presents internationally. Rita encourages quilters of all levels and styles to find their own voice in quilting, challenging her students to think in new ways about pattern and ways to create it. Her students will confirm that her classes are FUN filled and information packed, that her technique is a surprising new way of thinking and that Rita is very reachable as a teacher.

Rita maintains a home and studio in Sandpoint, Idaho, a small town in the North Idaho Panhandle where she has lived for 32 years and raised her daughter Aleya [born 1988]. When she is not involved in some aspect of quilting she spends her time beading, being outdoors on the beautiful rivers and lakes she lives near, bike riding, telemark skiing, hiking, being active in her community and generally living a busy, creative and full life.

Visit Rita's website and You Tube Channel for more pictures and slide shows.
www.ritahutchens.com / www.youtube.com/user/RitaHutchens

Selected Teaching / Judging / Lectures

- *Spanish Quilting Association / Sitges, Spain / Four day workshop/ 2011*
- *Wisconsin State Quilt Guild Conference /2010 / Lake Geneva, Wisconsin / Four Day Workshop*
- *Houston International Quilt Festival / November 2009 / Workshops*
- *Quilting in the Tetons/ Jackson Hole, Wyoming / November 2009 / Four Day Workshop / Lecture*
- *Pacific International Quiltfest / 2006-2007 / Santa Clara, California / Lecture / Workshops*
- *Maine Quilts / Augusta Maine / 2006 / Teaching and Judging*
- *Denver National Quilt Show / 2007 / Denver, CO. / Lecture and Teaching*
- *Quilters Heritage Celebration / 2005-2007 / Lancaster, PA / Teaching / Lecture*
- *Glendale Quilt Show / Glendale, California / 2005 / Lecture and Teaching*
- *Sew Many Northern Lights / Teaching / 2006/ St. Cloud, Minnesota / Teaching / Judging*
- *Quilter's Affair / Teaching / 2004 / The Stitchin'Post / Sisters, Oregon*
- *Quilt Camp in the Pines / Teaching / 2004 / Flagstaff, AZ*
- *Quilting by the Lake / 2004 / Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center /Morrisville, N.Y.*
- Rita presents lectures and slide shows about her work and technique to groups of up to 300, as well as presenting workshops to groups of 20-25 at many guilds, quilt shops, retreats and conferences. So far Rita has taught her workshops in the states of New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Texas, Idaho, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Selected Shows and Exhibitions

- *Spanish Quilting Association* / Sitges, Spain / One Person Exhibition / 2011
- *Paducah, KY* / International Juried show / 2009
- *Pacific International Quiltfest* / Santa Clara, CA / National Juried show
- *Quilters Heritage Celebration* / Lancaster PA. / National Juried quilt show / April 2006-2007
- *2006 Idaho Commission of the Arts Fellowship winners* / Travelling exhibition through the State of Idaho
- *Pacific Northwest Quiltfest* / Seattle, Washington / Regional juried show / August 2004
- *Quilts = Art = Quilts* / Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center / Auburn, NY/ National Juried Show
- *Art Quilts at the Sedgwick Art Museum* / Philadelphia / National Juried Art Quilts /
- Rocky Mount Arts Center / North Carolina / National Juried Craft Exhibition / 2003
- *Facets of the Gem State* / Traveling Exhibit: Idaho-Sandpoint, Twin Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Boise, Regional Juried Show / March 1990- January 1991 *Centennial Biennial* / Contemporary Idaho Art / Boise Art Museum / Regional Juried Show /
- *Designed To Wear* / Oregon School of Arts and Crafts / National invitational / April 1984, '85, '86
- *Art Wear* / Bellevue Art Museum / Bellevue, Washington / Regional Juried Show / April 1985, 1986
- *Inland Craft Warnings* / 1986-1990 / Spokane, Washington
- *ARTFEST* / Cheney Cowles Museum / Spokane Washington / 1986-1990

Selected Publications

- *American Quilter* / The American Quilt society / January 2011 / Feature Article on Technique
- *TOTALLY TUBULAR QUILTS: A New Strip Piecing Technique* / C&T Publishing 2003
Rita is the author and illustrator of this 80 page color book with photos of quilts and how to illustrations.
- *Celebrate the Tradition with C&T Publishing: Over 70 fabulous NEW BLOCKS, Tips and Stories from QUILTINGS BEST* / 2004
- *INTERNATIONAL Quilt Festival Quilt Scene* / Interweave Press October 2009
- *Latitudes* / Idaho Arts Commission 2006
- *Centennial Biennial: Contemporary Idaho Art* / Catalog / Boise Art Museum / 1990
- *Idaho Arts Journal 1988* / Feature Article

Selected Book Reviews

- **Quilters Newsletter Magazine** By: Janet Jo Smith, *"Rita has taken strip piecing to another level, resulting in complex designs made with simple techniques."*
- **Quilt University** - *"Rita takes Seminole patchwork into the 21st century"*
- **Journal of the International Quilting Assn.**- By: Louise Cleland, *"Prepare for some fascinating quilted gems when you turn the pages of this book...what appears to be complex is really an easy to accomplish concept. You will be liberated as you experiment with these ideas and produce some magical one-of-a kind quilts...this is a completely awesome technique."*
- **British Patchwork & Quilting** – ... *"you could work your way through this book and create some highly impressive results by its end. For its sheer ingenuity and impact I award this book my reviewers' choice..."*
- **Popular Patchwork** By: Gilian Cooper, - *"As someone who hates waste and so hoards every little scrap of fabric, this really appeals to me...I look forward to Totally Tubular Quilts 2 to help expand the repertoire."*
- **Mountain Cabin Quilters Guild** By: Deborah Sears, - *"Talking with Rita was exhilarating. Her belief in you as a quilter extraordinaire was contagious. Her manner was unassuming as, she quickly and easily instructed us. With Rita's encouragement and guidance she can "change your perspective a little."*