

GREG SOMERVILLE - Curriculum Vitae

"...stitched to everything in the universe..." - John Muir

Having graduated in Biology from Macquarie University with a major in Ecology and Molecular Genetics in 1976, I have worked at the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens (Sydney) and the University of Western Sydney before becoming a full-time art maker since then.

Textiles, drawing, painting and photography have been presented in over 40 group and solo exhibitions.

Processes I have used in my exhibition work are: the ones of quiltmaking (patchwork, quilting, applique, embroidery, trapunto), dyeing, painting and printmaking techniques (screenprint, woodblock, collagraph, digital, monoprint) leading to more sculptural forms. Whilst much of my work is textile based, I do draw upon my photographic and drawing practice.

I use techniques that allow me to freely develop a piece, as if in giving over to the dynamic 'unconscious'. That is, my work evolves and changes in a similar way that forms (living and non-living) interact and change with their ecosphere. Process is central to the themes in my work. Stitching, applique, printing and painting is a good way to mesh patterns and forms into layers of meaning.

My readings from the realms of religion, physics, biology and ecology and many years of keen observation of my local bioregion, have all contributed to an aesthetic that dwells upon underlying patterns and relationships inherent in this part of the world. The patterns of water drops on leaves, the way lichen spreads on sandstone or the manner in which trees co-inhabit the landscape is every bit as revelatory as great texts, painting or musical composition. At the very least I aspire to the communication of delight in my work.

Education & Experience

1999-present Set up **PerformingDesign** - a partnership with Paula Martin specialising in corporate and theatrical design, public art, scenic art, theatre design, sculpting & prop making, costume & mask designing.

1993-1998 Artist/Project manager. Plowright Fine Arts. Blue Mountains

1996 Sculptural textiles with Jane Sauer (USA)

1995 Australian Network for Art & Technology. (ANAT) - Summer School in Computer Design & Animation

1994 Master Creative Arts. Wollongong University

1994 Mystical Symbols/Ritual Objects with Walter Nottingham (U.S.A.)

1988 Textile Constructions with Joan Michels-Pacque (U.S.A.)

1981-85 Technical Officer. School of Fine Arts. University of Western Sydney

1981 Ecological survey work - National Herbarium. Sydney

1977-1980 Herbarium Assistant. National Herbarium. Sydney

1976 B.Sc. (Macquarie University). Majoring in Molecular Genetics & Ecology

Art Prizes & Awards

1995 Australia Council - Visual Arts & Crafts Board. Project Grant.

1993 Inaugural Scholarship - Quilters' Guild of N.S.W.

1990 Blue Mountains Art Prize - Category 1st Prize.

1990 Better Homes & Gardens/Bernina Patchwork Competition - 1st Prize.

1989 Quilt Show - Judges Commendation...Quilters' Guild of N.S.W.

1985, 6, 8 Australian Textile Art Prize - Awards of Merit.

1986 Australia Council - Crafts Board - Project Development Grant.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2014 **Hornsby Art Prize**. Hornsby Shire Council - finalist in drawing
Christmas Show. Wild Valley Art Park
Petite - miniature textiles. Wangaratta Regional Art Gallery
Collector's Edition. Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.
Waste to Art - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.
- 2012 **Regeneration** - Contemporary Quilt Textiles. Manly Art Gallery & Museum
- 2011 Winter Show, Papyrus Gallery, Leura - textiles and Drawing
- 2009 **Split infinitive**, Kerry Lowe Gallery, Newtown - mixed media and drawings
Art Quilt Australia 09 - Crafts Council ACT 2010
Skin, Gallery Red, Sydney - Photographs
- 2008 **Paper, Rock Scissors**, Ben Roberts Gallery, Lawson - mixed media
Tree/Creek, Ben Roberts Gallery, Lawson - mixed media
- 2004 **X3I**, solo exhibition. Gallery Lane. Leura - sculpture and painting.
ICON, Images of the sacred - Blue Mountains - drawing.
Hobart Art Prize, Hobart Art Gallery.
- 2003 **Blue Mountains Photographers** - Katoomba
Creative Mountains Artists Dorrigo Arts Council - Painting
- 2001 **Hobart Art Prize**, Co-created with Paula Martin - Fashion.
- 1996 **Stanthorpe Art Prize**, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, Queensland.
- 1995 Textile exhibition - Gallery 43. Leura. N.S.W.
- 1994 **Melbourne Quilt Exhibition** - invited Judge and exhibitor.
The New Quilt 1994 - Getting It Together. Manly, N.S.W
Colours of Australia, Quilters' Guild N.S.W.
- 1993 **The Alice Art Prize** - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
Highly Irregular - Quilts not according to rule, Manly Regional Art Gallery.
Discerning Textiles - Investigations of Process & Structure exhibition through the Directions Exhibition Project, Goulburn Regional Gallery.
- 1992 **Australian Perspectives** - works from six Australian Quilt Artists, Sydney.
Homage to the Idol, Contemporary Quilts. Manly Regional Art Gallery.
Tamworth National Fibre Exhibition - Tamworth City Art Gallery
- 1991 **Threads of Life - Textile Art from Western Sydney** - Lewers Regional Gallery
In the Sparkling Whorls of Light - World Council of Churches Conference, A.C.T.
The New Quilt - contemporary Australian Quilts - Manly Regional Art Gallery
Threads of Journeys - Australian Quilt Textiles - Dpt. of Foreign Affairs & Trade
- 1990 **Fibre & Text** - selected travelling exhibition, Ararat Regional Gallery
- 1988 **Quilt Australia '88** - Quilters' Guild NSW, Sydney
- 1987 **Quilts Covering Australia** - selected travelling exhibition - Quilters' Guild NSW
- 1986 **Patchwork & Quilting Exhibition** - Quilters' Guild of NSW, Sydney
- 1984 **Australian Patchwork & Quilting** - Brisbane, Queensland

Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 **The lie of the land** - Hat Hill Gallery - Blue Mountains, N.S.W.
- 2004 **X3□I** - solo exhibition - sculpture and painting. Gallery Lane. Leura
- 1993 Quilted Works - Fairmont Resort - Blue Mountains, N.S.W.
- 1989 **Full Circle** - quilted & sculptured Textiles - Narek Gallery, A.C.T.
- 1988 Quilted Works - Braemar Gallery, Springwood
- 1987 Quilts & Painted/Printed Textiles - Yartz Gallery, Sydney

Commissions & Collections

1999-present Set up **PerformingDesign** - a partnership with Paula Martin specialising in corporate and theatrical design, public art, scenic art, theatre design, sculpting & prop making, costume & mask designing. (see www.performingdesign.com.au)

- 1994 Textile Sculpture Lloyds Bank. N.Z.
 National Pac. Sydney
 Concord General Hospital - Casualty Reception
- 1993 Two Textile/Quilted sculptures - Smith's Crisps Head Office. Sydney
Textile Sculpture - Heritage & Contemporary Art. Sydney
- 1991 Three Quilted Works - Fairmont Resort. Leura
- 1988 Four Festival Banners - Blue Mountains City Council

Publications

- 2012 Textiles - The Art of Mankind by Mary Schoeser. Thames and Hudson
- 2011 Textile - Fibre Forum. Issue no.101
- 2009 Textile - Fibre Forum.
- 1992 The Quilters Kaleidoscope - Dianne Finnegan - Simon & Schuster.
Craft Art (Vol 25) - 'Australian Perspectives'
- 1990 Piece by Piece - The Complete Book of Australian Quiltmaking - Dianne Finnegan - Simon & Schuster.
- 1989 Australian Quilts - The People & their Art - Simon & Schuster.
- 1988 Quilt Australia - A national survey of contemporary Australian quiltmaking - Bay Books.