

## ANN JOHNSTON, JUROR



It is a privilege to have had the opportunity to study all the artwork for Shifting Tides: Convergence in Cloth submitted from seven North Pacific regions of SAQA. The topic demands a passion we all feel, and the quilts dealt with the subject and the passion in many different ways; all of them hit me as having merit and value. The written statements expanded on the thoughts of the artists and helped me understand the works.

Being a juror is a risky business because it implies falsely that I know what is “best.” I am a fellow artist and what I know is only based on my experiences as a viewer and as a maker. Choosing the pieces for the exhibit required me to try to set aside my natural preferences in order to look as objectively as possible at each piece, then look at each piece in relationship to all the others. The qualities I focused on for this exhibit are these:

- Ability to engage the viewer
- Integration of design elements
- Complexity of presentation of the theme
- Continuity of composition and artist statement
- Visible hand of the artist in marks, stitches, shapes

The choices were very hard—there are quilts that I did not select that could just as easily have been in the exhibit as some of the others. The intention of the exhibit was not only to choose good pieces but also to include a representative range of habitats and issues in reference to our Pacific ecosystem. I also wanted to include a range of design approaches and construction techniques. I think the resulting exhibit is a showcase of art that will enlighten the viewers about quilts and encourage exploration of solutions to one of our most anguishing ecological problems.

In the meantime, we all keep making and learning and growing with our own points of view and sets of skills. Your work is for yourself, and you are its ultimate juror.

Ann Johnston



Photographer: Jim Lommasson

37 h x 35 w

### **"WAVE 15 (RED)"**

I have spent a lot of time staring at ocean waves and wondering how to make that sensation into a quilt design, imagining the complex forces that create a wave, imagining what it feels like to be in a wave. As you can see, this is #15 in the series. This one came out RED because red is the color of—among other things—heat and anger. It won't be long before the many of the changes occurring in our ocean will be irreversible.