

# SAQA Global Exhibitions relate to current events worldwide

by Patty Kennedy-Zafred

As our world emerges from a global pandemic and is now confronted with both a military conflict and a major refugee crisis, the most critical elements for human security and safety — food and shelter — are receiving special attention. Two new SAQA Global Exhibitions, *Gastronomy* and *Haven*, deal with these very basic human needs. Premier-

ing at the Houston International Quilt Festival on November 3, 2022, and juried by internationally renowned artists, these two exhibitions could not be more timely.

*Gastronomy* was juried by Cecilia González Martínez and Mercè González Martínez, from Barcelona, Spain, sisters who work together as Desedamas professionally. They create textile art primarily composed of dyed, painted, and layered silk, frequently producing custom-made pieces in response to interior design plans for homes and businesses. The thematic curation of their selections for *Gastronomy* was based on the relationship between food and culture, preparation and tradition, and personal connections. Having recently completed a major exhibition



**Betty Busby**

Pod

42 x 12 x 17 inches, 2021





## Judith Content

### Ragamuffin Series Gingham

13.5 x 7 x 2 inches, 2020



interpreting the seasonal menus of a restaurant in Spain, they were well suited to the task of jurying this exhibition.

The result is an exhibition of forty vibrant art quilts featuring abstract and narrative works that depict not only specific foods, but also preparation, origin, and celebration, many with an international flavor. Several of the works are literal representations in a three-dimensional format, including *Pod* by Betty Busby and *Ragamuffin Series Gingham* by Judith Content. Busby's pods are larger than life in size and scale, whereas Content's intricately dyed and beaded muffins are presented in a well-used metal muffin pan.

Dianne Firth created *Bread*, a depiction of shafts of wheat, using her innovative layering and stitching techniques, reflecting on the root of the most basic

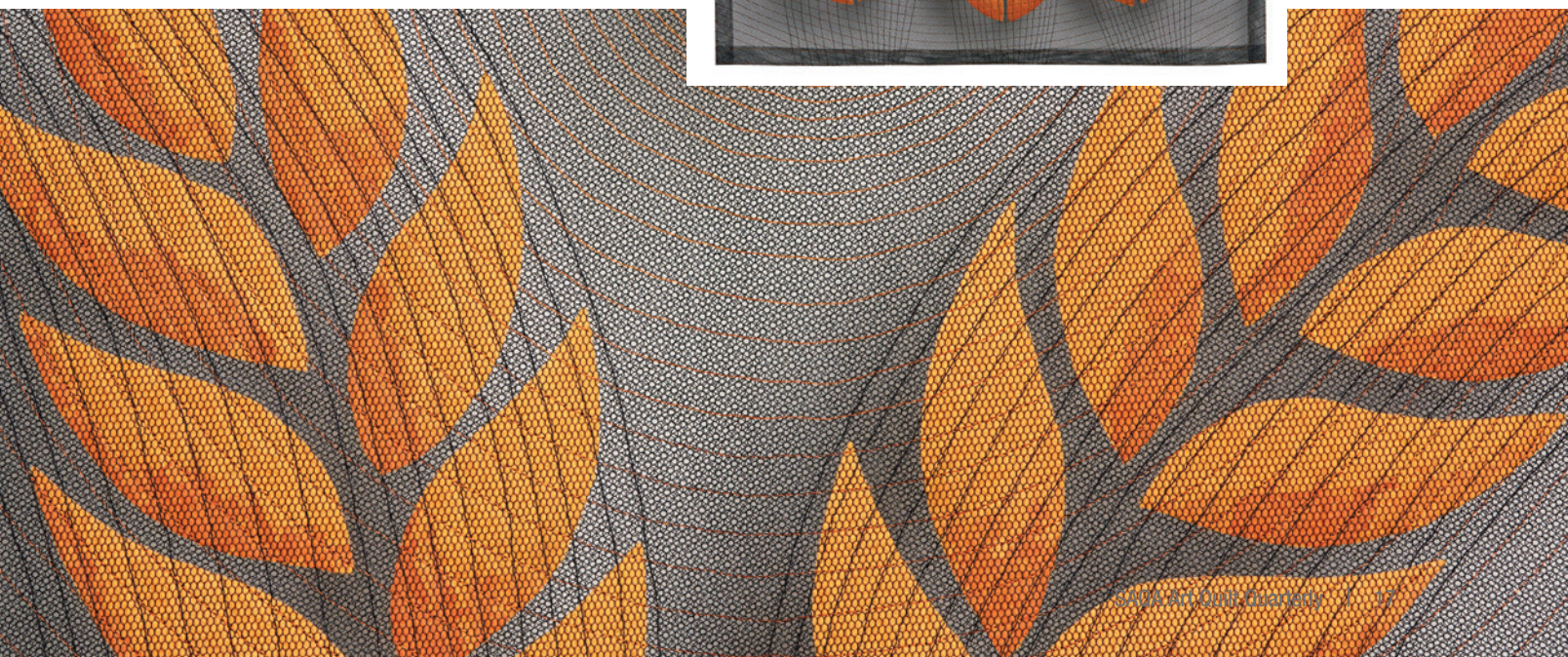


## Dianne Firth

### Bread

33 x 27 inches, 2021

photo by Andrew Sikorski







of foods. Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry based her bright and colorful *Cabbages* on a photo taken at a farmers market in Paris. European shopping habits also inspired Linda Colsh in *A Matter of Scale*, featuring digital and screen-printed images from an historic fish market in Bruges, Belgium.

**H**aven, the companion exhibition for this premier showing at the world's largest quilt festival, was juried by Eszter Bornemisza, an internationally recognized mixed-media artist living in Budapest, Hungary. Featuring paper, textiles, printing, dyeing, and painting, her work often features abstract yet recognizable representations of the streets and roads of familiar territory — artistic renderings inspired by

**Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry**  
**Cabbages**

30 x 30 inches, 2019





## Linda Colsh

### A Matter of Scale

40 x 30 inches, 2009

photo by Pol Leemans

mapping that contemplate the value of neighborhood and security of place. Bornesmisza suggests that this imagery has also become a metaphor of her own journey to discover her identity. The selections chosen by her to represent *Haven* through the medium of art quilts express an artistic visualization of a retreat or safe space, personal or public.

Anne Bellas reflects on the ancient cathedrals surrounding her home in France in #2 *Cathédrales des 100 Lunes*. These sacred spaces, often used as



## Anne Bellas

### #2 Cathédrales des 100 Lunes (Cathedrals of 100 Moons)

46 x 34 inches, 2021





## Chiaki Dosho

### *The Glistening Light 3*

43 x 50 inches, 2021

photo by Akinori Miyashita

sanctuary in the Middle Ages, today serve as serene places to pray or meditate. Light illuminating from the door of her daughter's home inspired Chiaki Dosho to create *The Glistening Light 3*, based on the apprehension of meeting her new grandchild for the first time in the midst of the pandemic. Rendered in her signature style, Jette Clover's *Stitched Dialogue* addresses the quietude, peace, and solace in making her work within the safety and solitude of her home during a pandemic.

Several artists communicate the tranquility and solitude found in nature, from forests to fields and water. Ann Johnston seeks shelter, both physically and emotionally, in the Sierra Nevada regions of California, offering the viewer her majestic landscape of hand-dyed tree trunks in *The Contact: Grove*.





