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Quilters' S.O.S. – Save Our Stories

Oral History Interview with Quiltmaker Linda Gass (excerpt)



Interviewer: Karen Musgrave
Project Name: The Illinois QSOS
Location: Chicago, Illinois, Indigo Hotel
Date: 2006-11-12

Interview posted online at:

<http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/qsos>

(search via interview, location or project)

Karen Musgrave (KM): This is Karen Musgrave. I am at the Indigo Hotel in Chicago, Illinois conducting a Quilters' S.O.S. – Save Our Stories interview with, where are you from?

Linda Gass (LG): Los Altos, California.

KM: Thank you. I usually state where the person is from. This is Linda Gass. So let's begin our interview. It is 10:30 in the morning. So, let's start by telling me about the quilt that you have selected for this interview.

LG: All right. This was one of the very first painted silk quilts I ever made. It is whole cloth that has been painted with silk dyes, using the gutta serti method on a piece of white silk, and it is an aerial landscape view of Interstate 5 crossing the California aqueduct in the Central Valley of California, a major farming valley where most of the produce for our country comes from. I was drawn to an image, an aerial photograph of this landscape that I saw in a book and wanted to recreate it. This quilt is actually kind of [laughs.], there is kind of a funny story behind it, there are several funny stories. But, I decided to start out by making a prototype quilt, because I was going to do quite a large one. This is quite small, it is 21" X 26", and I knew that the Quilt National deadline was coming up, and I heard that that was a really good venue to get my work into. I was just starting out. I was going to work on this prototype to make a larger version to try to submit to Quilt National. I started working on the prototype, and I just did not like the way it was coming out, I thought it was terrible. I set it aside...

End excerpt

To read this interview in its entirety, visit <http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/qsos/advanced.php> and enter "Linda Gass" in the interviewee box. There are more than 1,000 Quilters' S.O.S. – Save Our Stories interviews posted on the Alliance's website and archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

For more information on how you can help preserve quilt history today contact The Alliance for American Quilts at information@quiltalliance.org or (828) 251-7073.