

Meetinghouse Hill Designs, LLC

Wool Applique Art and Patterns Designed For Distinction

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PRESS RELEASE

April 19, 2010

Meetinghouse Hill Designs, LLC Celebrates One Year in Business!

Company Surpasses Benchmark of 1,000 Patterns Sold

This April marks the one year anniversary of the launch of *Meetinghouse Hill Designs, LLC*, a Colorado based design and publication business of wool appliqué art patterns. Kathy J. (Lanciani) Gaul is the owner of the business and designs all the artwork and patterns herself. She has been drawing, publishing and self-marketing her current line of 20 pattern designs for one year now, and recently surpassed a milestone of sales distributing over 1,000 patterns nationwide through quilt and wool shops and textile shows.

Wool appliqué historically has been known as "penny rug appliqué," dating back to the 1800's. In the true sense of American folk art, women would use real coins and trace the circular shapes onto washed woolen fabric scraps or remnants of clothing, then appliqué and hand embroider those "pennies" in stacked fashion onto a larger piece of wool or cotton to create a table mat or "rug" to add beauty to their homes. Sometimes a real penny was stitched between the wool ones to add weight to the finished piece.

The patterns that are designed by Kathy J. Gaul use the same types of fabrics and techniques incorporated in the 1800's penny rugs, but the styling and function of her finished art pieces (and patterns) are quite different. Born and raised in Leominster, Massachusetts, a part of Kathy's heart remains in her beloved birthplace where the sites and people give her much of the inspiration for her art. Her folk art wool appliqué patterns are full of hand stitching detail and fabric dimension and reflect a very "New England" flavor to the subject matters she draws which include salt-glazed crocks, geraniums, hydrangeas and lots of pumpkins and crows! Most of her finished pieces are intended to be displayed as art, framed and unframed. She works with wool yardage, hand-dyed wools and recycled wool skirts from thrift stores and felts each piece so that the cut edges of her appliqué shapes will not unravel. She finds great joy in working with over-dyed 100% cotton threads to blanket-stitch around the wool shapes to give added depth and variety to her designs. Her patterns are written with great detail so that even an inexperienced stitcher can test her hand at wool appliqué and be pleased with the results.

A few of Kathy's specially designed pieces, made because of the inspiration of someone in her life, reside in New England in private collections. One such piece is "Nessy Visits Nauset" a seaside pictorial of a seagull who has just waddled along the shoreline of Cape Cod in search of lunch, after visiting Nauset Lighthouse. "Nessy" has his origin in Kathy's Uncle Nessy, who loves to join her on trips to visit the Cape, search out lighthouses, and watch the seagulls surf the winds along the shore. Some of Kathy's original works have also been displayed at Kindred's Antiques and Folk Art in Osterville, Massachusetts. (www.kindredsantiquesandfolkart.com) Kindred's is an amazing gallery of antiques mingled with American made folk art including paintings, wood carvings, paper art and of course, textile art.

Kathy has always been surrounded by textiles. As a small child she sewed her own doll clothing by hand and drooled over the "sample books" her uncle owned as an upholsterer. She learned to sew her own clothing from her beloved Aunt, pursued an education in textiles and spent ten years restoring antique quilts. When she launched "*Meetinghouse Hill Designs*" Kathy turned her focus and attention to designing and publishing these patterns for wool appliqué to stand out amongst the current selections available for the craft. This distinctiveness of detail and dimension is what she is becoming known for. Kathy's passion lives through her company tag line, "wool appliqué art designed for distinction." Her desire is that people will be inspired to express themselves and their creativity through making one of her art pieces. Her patterns are designed to evoke an appreciation for handwork and the love that goes into every stitch.

Kathy lives in Colorado with her husband, Jerry and their fur-ball, Fluffernutter, a Maine-coon mix cat. While she has spent more than half of her life away from New England, she is blessed to travel back there often, first to see her family, and second to drink in the sights and sounds, the smells and tastes that feed her soul, and its expression - her art!

One last note... *why "Meetinghouse Hill Designs"*? New England towns were built around "commons" - grassy areas usually centrally located - surrounded with buildings and at least one "meetinghouse." The meetinghouse was often used both as a place of worship and a place of social gathering for the community. Kathy and her husband Jerry were married in a meetinghouse, which just happens to be located on Meetinghouse Hill Road! It is in her upbringing that she learned the values of respect, honesty, integrity, perseverance and hard work through watching her parents and her family live life, and serve others. Kathy's desire with this business is to stand firm on the solid ground of her faith and family, to do business right, to gather people together through the arts and to express the gift of creativity that has been given to her by an amazing Creator.

Please visit Kathy's website, www.meetinghousehilldesigns.com to see her designs and to read the delightful stories behind the artwork. Please contact her for further information or to schedule an interview.