

PenWAG Rag



Two Presidents' Thoughts. . . .

Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo

Co-Presidents

Ode to Challenging Times!

Like it was yesterday, I remember how happy were to welcome in 2020! The sound of it had a perfect ring. Even though in 2019 PenWAG established the Angel Fund, that was a humdrum year. We were looking forward to an exciting new year with all its possibilities.

January and February arrived, and our first two speaker programs and workshops were filled past capacity. **Holly Badgley** and **Paul Gallo** were stellar. Again, **Joy to fabulous programming!** We looked forward to our March meet-up.

In late February, Leilani called to talk about the possibility of cancelling our March meeting due to a probable pandemic called Covid originating in China! The speaker was to be **Suzi Click** and her workshop was sold out. I was taken aback by Leilani's suggestion. Her reasoning was that we might cause harm to our membership since so many of us were considered senior citizens. Of course, she was right, and we did in fact cancel the March meeting. A few weeks later, the entire world was shuttered and life as we knew it changed. The world went dark. Like turtles, we retracted our heads into our abodes and hunkered down; little did we know it would still be gripping us today. Holiday cards read: 'We went nowhere, saw no one, we did nothing, bah humbug! **So, The Only Joy Was To Stay Healthy!**

The PenWAG membership had elected the two people least capable of steering us through this difficult time. We have

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zero tech knowledge or skills. Were it not for my husband and Leilani's SIL, neither of us would own a computer. We need constant tech support. But here we were with members suggesting we have our meetings online!! Dear Lord, what were we to do??? But our amazing tech wizards **Kevin Roche, Andrew Trembley** and **George Paganini** gently soothed our flustered feathers and assured us that we could indeed have speakers and programs via something called zoom. And so, **Joy to Fabulous Tech Gurus!**

We all miss in person meetings with the **Joy of Companionship**, hugs, and greetings, but what we all love the most is **Show and Tell.**

Continued, page 2

Thanks to the talented Judi Seip, we sent her pictures of our creative endeavors which she put into a slide presentation, we have had two meeting devoted to show and tell! Many of us found our 'muses' to had vacated our studios/workrooms, so much of the works shown were not garments, we had lots of painting and other art. **Joy To Sharing!**

Most of the board signed on for 2020, our second year's effort. But when creating a slate for 2021, amazing thanks to some board who said they would stay on for a fourth term to get us thru this crisis called Covid. This takes us to now. Five **decided** to stay on for a fourth term. That includes **Wren Clark** and her sidekick **Martin Gorfinkle** will continue as treasurers. **Anne Vogel** will continue as Membership Chair, **Michelle Paganini** will continue to find fabulous speakers and one of our Members at Large, **Laura Kohler**, 'you remember her as the lovely woman who brings young golden retrievers' to our meetings will stay on. So **Joy and Great Thanks for Their Dedication!**

Here we are bumping at the edge of 2022. It is pushing us hard, and we are still in Covid meeting via Zoom. In hopes that things will change, and we will again get to meet 'live', the Board has made plans with the generous offer of George Paganini to be our tech guide to do 'hybrid meetings'. These will be live and broadcast at the same time. At present, we have 26 members who are out of our area. If you move to 'Timbuktu', you can remain a member and be a part of and enjoy PenWAG. **Joy to the Internet!**

We are fortunate that **Nell Stinson** and **Christine Kenworthy** will join us as co-presidents. **Claire De Lucchi**, who has been our secretary for several years, now will step up as VP. Our new Secretary will be **Debbie Bretschneider**. We have an out of state member who will come on as our Social Media guru, **Jane Wolfe**. Her counter point in "publicity" will remain as Newsletter Editor, **Lenore Kelly**. As you may recall, Lenore started '**Love Letters**' in the months after shutting down and prior to our meeting via Zoom to keep us connected. Last month we filled the vacant Member at Large person with **Jackie Cruz**, another out of townner. You will find the bios repeated later in this issue. **Joy to Fresh Few faces and Ideas!**

The last thing on this board's agenda of accomplishments has been a complete bylaw review for our 501c3 organization. The bylaws were antiquated in language as they predated electronic communication. Words like telegraph described our communication. They were updated with words like email and online! **Joy to Joining the 21st Century.**

Leilani and I are at the end of our third term as co-presidents and we are so grateful to have had a great board with whom to work. We thank them profusely and we thank all the membership who have stuck with PenWAG through this long transitional period.

Stay well, happy holidays and hopefully we will see you all in person soon.

marcia



Just in time for the holidays ...

the perfect **gift** for a Wearable Art Kindred Spirit is a **PenWAG Membership!** Our wonderful Webmaster *Kevin* has added a new feature on our website under the Join PenWAG menu item called:

[One-Year PenWAG Gift Membership](#)

On this page is a box to include a Gift Message to the recipient. I will mail the recipient of your gift, a card with your message along with a New Member packet.

Thank you! *Anne*, Membership Chair

PAGES 3-10 INTRODUCE OUR FABULOUS 2022 LINEUP, ENJOY



January 2022

Tonje Halvorsen

Safety Pin Fashion

Zoom



January 2022

Tonje Halvorsen
Workshop

Safety Pin Bracelet

Zoom

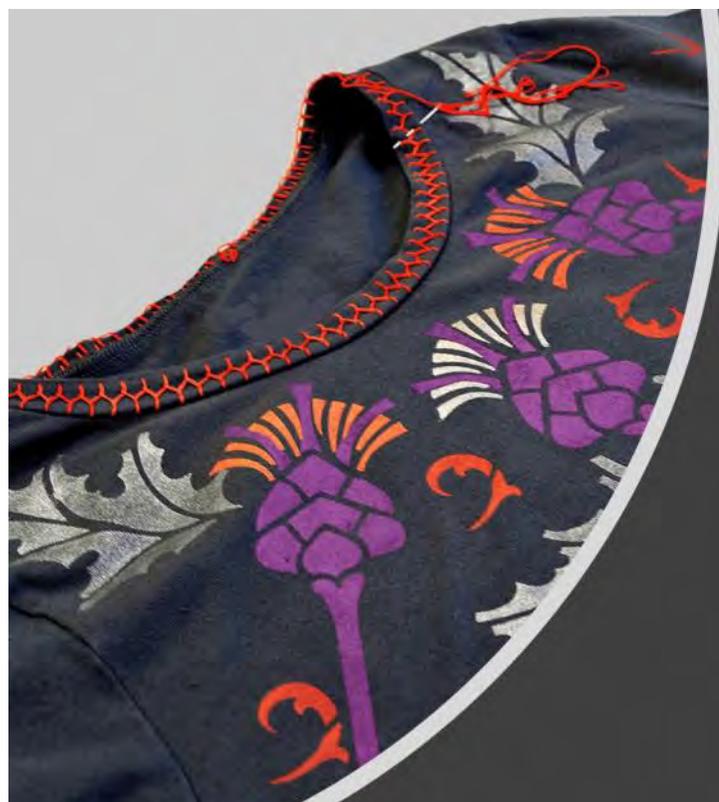


February 2022

Paul Gallo

History of Fashion
1970 +

Zoom



March 2022

April Sproule

Transformation
from
Technician to Artist
+ Stenciling

Zoom



March/April 2022,
2 Part Workshop

Lorraine Torrence

Making and Using
Bias and Straight of
Grain Tapes in
Garments

Pre-recorded and
Zoom



April 2022

Lorraine Torrence

Closures of All Kinds for
Wearables

Zoom



May 2022

Catherine Redford

Dorset Buttons

Zoom



May 2022

Catherine Redford,
Workshop

Embroidered
Embellishments

Zoom



June 2022

Studio Tours
with Members

Zoom



July 2022

Artwear for
Ourselves

Planned to be
live and Zoom
simulcast



August 2022

IB Bayo

Trunk Show

Planned to be live
and Zoom simulcast



September 2022

Amber Young,
Ragged Thistle

Trunk Show

Planned to be
live and Zoom
simulcast



September 2022

Amber Young,
Workshop

Swing Jacket from
vintage linens

Planned to be live
and Zoom simulcast



October 2022

Gift Making
Workshops,
Member Led

Zoom



November 2022

Dorothy Kaplan
Trunk Show

Planned to be live
and Zoom simulcast



December 2022

Potluck and Stash Exchange

Planned to be live and
Zoom simulcast



BY MICHELLE PAGANINI

December Program: Member Show and Tell

This is your opportunity to share your creations and inspire others. Look forward to sharing what you've done in workshops, on your own, etc. at this meeting with slides compiled by **Judi Seip**

*****Extra encouragement for holiday projects, not just wearable art.

'Tis the Season of Giving

In years past we were able to get together after a general meeting for a gratifying and fun afternoon and work on donations to **Next Door Solutions for Domestic Violence**. We aren't able to do that again this year but the needs of organizations like Next Door have not diminished due to Covid. Rather, they have increased dramatically because of the increased pressures of the pandemic on families at risk.

If you can, please remember to make a donation to Next Door (or a similar organization of your choice). www.nextdoorsolutions.org.



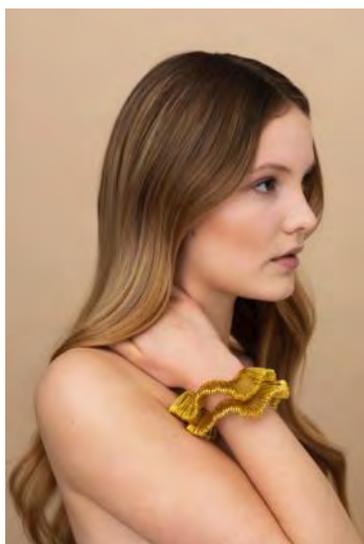


January 8, 2022

**Program: Tonje Halvorsen and the Safety Pin -
The Love Story 11:00 – 12:30**



This is a talk about how Tonje became an artist and fell in love with the safety pin as a medium. She will share her journey beginning with how it all started, her success and challenges, and her working process. She will also share how an idea and garment are formed



Workshop: Tonjeinnea Curvy Bracelet 1:15 – 4:15

In this workshop you will learn how to create with safety pins. It is a workshop both for the experienced craftsperson wanting to try something new and for the beginners who are curious about giving this craft a try. We are going to walk through the basics of the craft, so no prior knowledge is needed.

We will go through the different techniques of how to create textures and art pieces using safety pins (28mm). After the introduction we will create curvy bracelets with help and guidance from Tonje.

Supplies: This project will use 28mm safety pins. You can purchase your own (how many will be posted later) or get a kit directly from Tonje for \$20 (link to come later.)

From **Michelle Paganini**, Program Chair:

I am planning a “BEST OF” meeting and want to hear from you! **Send your entries to** Michelle@paganoo.com

What are your favorites? Patterns, online fabric shops, blogs, podcasts, inspiring artist websites, Pinterest searches/pages, Books, Blogs, Notions, Magazines, embellishment tools, etc.? Use the following format:

Category: (what is it?)

Website or purchase info: (how can we find it?)

Why is it a favorite? (be specific and give examples)

Submitted by: (your name)

For example:

Category: Podcast

Website or purchase info: <https://lovetosewpodcast.com/>

Why is it a favorite?

You wouldn't think a sewing podcast would work, but it is entertaining and informative every time. Covers a wide range of sewing topics, also features interviews with artists and organizations. Given by Helen of Helen's Closet Patterns & Caroline of Blackbird Fabrics. Favorite episode – Get your SewJo Back #87

NEXT MONDAY MUSE December 20

Monday Muse and the 5 Challenges of 2021

Claire De Lucchi

We call this year's 5 challenge options "Alphabet Soup":

- **A is for Artist inspiration** - did one of our recent artists provide a spark which got you fired up? *Laura Murray, Dorothy Yuki, Suzi Click, April Sproule* or any of the upcoming 2021 roster . . .
- **B is for Bought it during the pandemic** and now finally transformed it into something fun to share...
- **C is for a Class project** or technique you learned at PenWAG or online and you made something of it!
- **D is for a Deferred challenge** from any of the last few years which you finally unearthed and finished.
- **F is for Finishing a UFO** of any type, provenance or vintage!

Although A, B, C, D and F look like letter grades, it is merely a coincidence! If you share any challenge result with the rest of us, you definitely have earned a spot on the PenWAG stage for a few moments of celebration and some oohs and ahs!

November General Meeting Minutes - by Claire DeLucchi, Secretary

Zoom Meeting opened at 11:05 AM by **Leilani Bennett**, Co-President/VP. Approximately 52 people were in attendance, including a few non-member guests. **Andrew Trembley** briefly explained the Zoom menus for attendees.

Leilani welcomed members and guests and included the names of 3 new members. There were no announcements. Announcements to be shared with members can be emailed to Newsletter@penwag.org and President@penwag.org

Leilani informed attendees that the published slate for 2022 Board to be published in the December newsletter and to be voted upon at the December 13 meeting would be amended from the published November version such that **Lenore Kelly**, current 2021 Board Member / Newsletter Editor would be sharing a Social Media / Newsletter slot with **Jane Wolfe**, who had been proposed as Social Media Chairperson (formerly Publicity). They would share one vote on the Board as do others who share a single Board position.

Marcia Manzo, Co-President/VP, spoke about past community service donations of sewn and donated items such as pajama pants, vest and toiletries in washcloth holders to **Next Door Solutions** in Santa Clara County. Due to COVID restrictions it has been much more difficult to get together and coordinate such in-kind donations, and the Board voted to donate \$1000 to Next Door as well as to collect any items made for the clients and their family members (stuffed cats, pajamas, tote bags, etc.) as part of their role as 501c3 non-profit corporation. PenWAG members are also encouraged to donate directly to Next Door Solutions where the need is greater than ever. A "**Button**" will be added to the PenWAG website and a **hotlink to the newsletter** to make it easy for members to go directly to the Next Door website to donate.

Claire De Lucchi, Secretary, shared that the Board had voted to approve all of the Bylaws updates recommended by the Bylaws Team to reflect the new virtual mode of operation as well as to incorporate legal and regulatory changes since 2007 regarding personal information protection and the 2016 amendment to allow voting by acclamation. She also reminded members about the **Monday Muse Zoom every 3rd Monday** of the month from 7 PM until 8:30 PM.

Michelle Paganini, Program Director, then described the next few upcoming Programs including a peek at some of the featured speakers for the first half of 2022. The complete schedule of 2022 programs will be shared in the December Newsletter.

As she introduced the featured speaker, Harriet Riddell, presenting remotely from the U.K., the business portion of the meeting was concluded at 11:19 AM.

Claire

**The 2021 PenWAG Board & membership are
pleased to submit the
following *slate of members for the 2022 Board*:**

Also, per the PenWAG Bylaws, **this slate will be voted upon at the
December 11 General Meeting** by a quorum of members (via live Zoom poll).

Co-Presidents (sharing Presidential duties, 1 vote):	<i>Christine Kenworthy & Nell Stinson (NEW, local)</i>
Vice-President:	<i>Claire De Lucchi (formerly Secretary)</i>
Secretary:	<i>Debbie Bretschneider (NEW, local)</i>
Co-Treasurers (sharing Treasurer duties, 1 vote):	<i>Wren Clark & Martin Gorfinkel (continuing)</i>
Program Chair:	<i>Michelle Paganini (continuing)</i>
Membership Chair:	<i>Anne Vogel (continuing)</i>
Social Media Chair & Newsletter, (1 vote):	<i>Jane Wolfe (NEW, remotely located) & Lenore Kelly (continuing)</i>
Member at Large:	<i>Laura Kohler (continuing)</i>
Member at Large:	<i>Jackie Cruz (appointed late 2021, continuing, remotely located)</i>
Ex-Officio (non-voting):	<i>Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo (per PenWAG Bylaws)</i>

Candidate Info for Upcoming Election

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Candidate Christine Kenworthy, Hillsborough CA, for Co-President

I am a long-time member of PenWAG but this is my first time serving on the Board. I am a recently-retired psychologist and was also a nurse. I'm an accomplished surface design artist, having studied silk painting in Paris and most recently have been studying shibori techniques. I have owned a batik studio and have had wall hangings displayed in a Southern CA art museum.

Candidate Nell Stinson, San Mateo CA, for Co-President

I have been a member for years and will be serving on the Board for the first time. I too am very recently retired from the medical profession as an Ob/Gyn doctor. I started hand embroidering in the 70's—the hippie years—then discovered knitting. Sewing came along when the children needed Halloween costumes. My creative passions now are shibori, surface design and weaving.



Candidate Claire De Lucchi, Fremont CA, for Vice-President

I have been a member since 2006 and in that period of time have served PenWAG wearing many hats, including past President three years, and Secretary two years. I recently retired and I and my husband will be moving to our retirement home in Aromas, CA, which includes five acres of grapes and a working winery. My favorite type of sewing is what I call "technical sewing" - the challenge of achieving sculptured and shaped effects in garments.

Candidate Debbie Breitschneider, Saratoga CA, for Secretary

I have been a member of PenWAG for several years. I very recently retired as City Clerk for the City of Saratoga, California. I am a fine sewist and my passion is historical period costume.



Candidates Wren Clark & Martin Gorfinkle, San Jose CA, for Co-Treasurer

I have been a PenWAG member for years and agreed to be treasurer three years ago as long as *Martin Gorfinkle*, my husband, could be the co-treasurer. On the PenWAG board, together we get one vote. Each of us has been treasurer for a number of non-profits in the past. I've sewn for years and Martin bought his own sewing machine 6 years ago. Over several years, Martin and I have produced 1000 fleece vests for preschoolers and donated them to *Sunnyvale Community Services*. Now I experiment with painting on fabric, then using that fabric in clothing.



Candidate Michelle Paganini, San Jose CA, for Membership Chair

I took early retirement from Silicon Valley industry and started my own business, *Paganoonoo Designs*. It was the natural outcome for my passion for repurposing. I lecture, teach and design all the patterns for Paganoonoo Designs. You will also likely see me vending at sewing expos throughout the Western States. I have been a PenWAG member for 14 years and this will be my second year as Program Chair.

Candidate Anne Vogel, San Jose CA, for Membership Chair

I've been a member of this inspiring organization for 7 years. The last 4 years I have been Membership Chairman. I enjoy the exposure I get to many types of wearable art and I truly learn something wonderful from every speaker presentation! PenWAG feeds my creative spirit.



Candidates Jane Wolfe, Vancouver WA, for Social Media Chair

I am a fiber and ceramic artist and author ([Improve Your Relationships](#)). Currently I am President of a Creative Wearables Group, a member of the Art Quilt Group and on the board of Columbia Arts Network (CAN). I also teach Applied Improvisation to businesses as part of the Quantum Leaders staff.

Lenore Kelly, San Jose CA, for Newsletter is one of our longest members and has been doing the newsletter editing for years.

Candidate Jackie Cruz, Cardiff-by-the-Sea CA, for Member-at-Large

Thanks to the wonders of Zoom, I am one of the new remote members and live in Southern California, just two hours south of the LA fabric district. That accounts for my shed full of fabric. Sewing has been my creative outlet my entire life—I have sewn through two careers and now I am planning on sewing a retirement wardrobe.

Candidate Laura Kohler for Member-at-Large

I am retired and an expert quilter and beader. I make beautiful pieced and beaded ecclesiastical robes and wall hangings.

Isolation Gown Sewing Project

Shanti Dickson led this. She & her husband **Todd** sponsored it through **River Church** in San Jose and worked hard to recruit significant donations to cover costs. Shanti, a non-sewist, purchased fabric and notions at incredibly reduced prices, and worked with **Pauline Bruce** to develop instructions using a free pattern from **Peek a Boo** patterns. She organized teams and leaders to help cut massive amounts of fabric, elastic & Velcro, then deliver it weekly or biweekly to sewists, picking up their finished gowns at the same time. Gowns then went through a QC process and were made available free to medical people and medical organizations that needed them, charging only the cost of shipping. The group produced over **5000 gowns** in a little over a year!

Joan Ragno actually made **208** (per the spreadsheet loggings of gowns as they were turned in). Wow! This is phenomenal!! **Penny Denise** made 17. **Lenore Kelly** made 35. Most of the gowns were made from a thick material with a camouflage print.

Shanti Dickson

sdickson@sewing4good.org



These are medical personnel at **Washington Hospital in Fremont**. However, gowns were shipped all over the US. In the early days, they were going to hospitals in poor areas of the eastern US that had been using garbage bags for protective gowns.

Judi Seip

Happenings at the Museum

Visit the **San Jose Museum Quilts & Textiles** located at 520 S. First Street. For information www.siquiltmuseum.org Our new hours are as follows:

Thursday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Evening hours admission is 'Pay What You Can!')

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

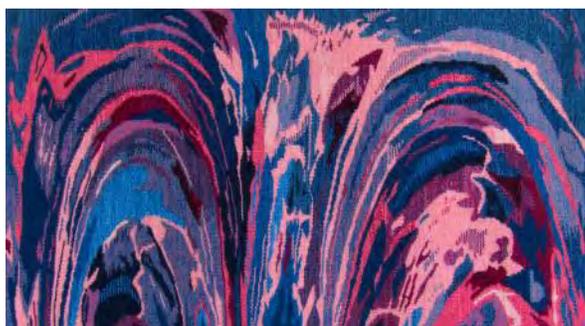
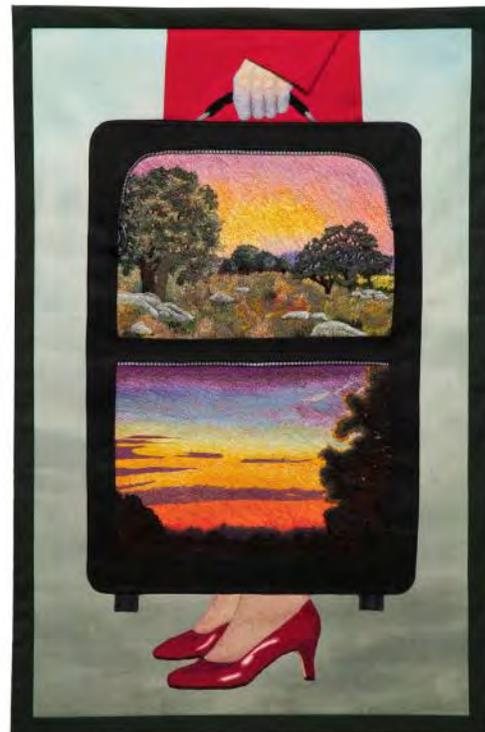
Sunday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Timed reservations are recommended but not required; masks are required, regardless of vaccination status.

Layered and Stitched: 50 Years of Innovative Art

September 22, 2021 – January 2, 2022

Layered & Stitched: 50 Years of Innovative Art, by Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA), is a showcase of 50 art quilts by renowned master artists around the globe. Seminal works show the evolution of the art quilt from the earliest pioneers to contemporary artists experimenting with new forms, materials, and digital technologies. This exhibition traces the development of this exciting art form as it started with isolated makers, primarily in Ohio and California, into an international movement involving thousands of artists. Featuring a balance of abstract and representational styles, these artworks represent the extraordinary range of talented artists working in contemporary quilt art



More Impact: Climate Change: Tapestry Weavers West

September 22, 2021 – January 2, 2022

More Impact: Climate Change, curated by Deborah Corsini and Alex Friedman, features tapestries from members of Tapestry Weavers West that reflect on our changing global environment and the detrimental consequences of climate change, woven in a

variety of tapestry techniques and styles.

Credit info:

Layered & Stitched image: BJ Adams, *Traveling from Dawn to Dusk*, 2009 (file name: *Adams_2009.jpg*)

More Impact: Climate Change image: Bobbi Chamberlain, *Metamorphosis*, 2001 (file name: *MoreImpact_ClimateChange_Chamberlain_web.jpg*) *Continued, page 21*

45th Anniversary Exhibition: New Directions

January 13 – March 27, 2022

This special anniversary exhibition highlights recent acquisitions at San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles in a series of thematic installations spanning three galleries. Both the specific artworks and broader themes explored in this survey reflect the diverse reasons our Museum seeks and acquires new works. *New Directions* prominently features recent artwork from SJMQT's Artist in Residence program. Established in 2016, this program supports local artists with on-site studio space and opportunities to exhibit work in the Museum's Maker Space Gallery. This program has deepened the Museum's commitment to supporting contemporary artists from or working in the Bay Area, including Alexander Hernandez, Liz Harvey, Amber Imrie, Carolina Cuevas, Tricia Royal, Mung Lar Lam, and more.



Works of art gifted by the Museum's many donors and patrons appear in each section of *New Directions*. Their generosity and dedication allow us to expand SJMQT's collections and cultivate curiosity, wonder, and excitement in our audiences.

Wash the Calendar: Victoria Martinez

January 13, 2022 – April 3, 2022

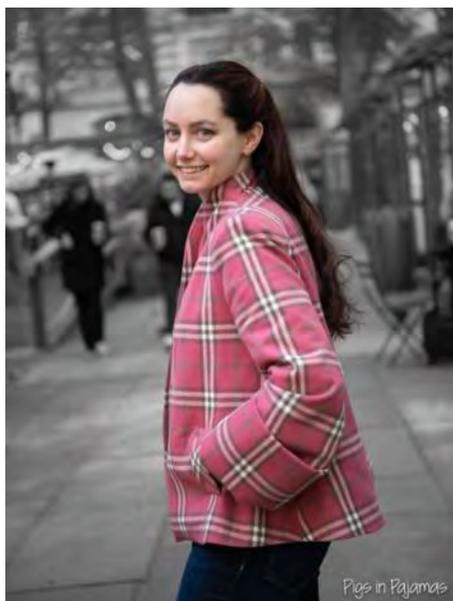
Chicago-based artist Victoria Martinez is inspired by urban landscape, signage, and graffiti and translates these symbols onto fabric using paint, screen-printing and sculpture to create vibrant mixed media works and installation.

images:

Marlin_1993_web.jpg: Chas Marlin, *Castelli Lovers*, 1993

martinez_web.jpg: Victoria Martiez, *Flirting with looms*, 2019





Canada College Tailoring Student, **Rachel Petterson** made this swing coat.

Please visit her blog link: <https://pigsinpajamas.com/>



What, Where & When

Meeting Time

PenWAG meets on the *second Saturday* of every month. Members will get an invitation to register for our Zoom meeting. See the newsletter at www.penwag.org for program information (there's a public copy available also).

Monday Muse

We have an inspirational meeting for the third Monday of the month, 7:00—8:30 PM. See the newsletter article for details.

Facebook Page

If you like PenWAG, you can now “like” our *Facebook page*. Come see the pictures from the Show & Tell, and news about upcoming events. Click on the link to get there: <http://www.facebook.com/penwag> (you can look at this even if you don't have a Facebook account). *Lynnette Viste* and *Andy Trembley* are “admins” for the page. Let us know what you'd like to see! The PenWAG Board will help decide what is posted. Stay tuned as we continue to explore the world of social networking!

Google Docs

We also have *Google apps* for nonprofits (for free) to store our documents in the cloud, e.g. newsletters and minutes. You can synchronize the *PenWAG Google calendar* with your calendar.

PenWAG website

www.penwag.org

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: do you have a website or other social media to be listed here? Send it to lenore@penwag.org

April Sproule [Sproule Studios](http://www.sproulestudios.com)

Caroline Nixon <http://www.handmadetextilesbycaroline.co.uk>

Diane Ericson [Diane Ericson Design](http://www.dianeericson.com)

Joan Ragno upmarketdesign@comcast.net

Susan Helmer www.susanhelmer.com

Willa Scholten [http://facebook.com/WILLAs-creative-collection-105234725027873](https://www.facebook.com/WILLAs-creative-collection-105234725027873)