

Elaine Ransom -CQG #136, 137

Among the guild members, Elaine's crazy quilt, 3-D appliqué, and needlework are unique to her. Elaine encouraged Linda Wesley to create her "Miniature Baltimore Album" (see#109) and some members do *Folk Art Quilts* using Sue Spargo "creative stitching" patterns (suespargo.com) (see# 203), or other wool appliqué designs from *Primitive Gatherings* or *Buttermilk Basin*. Some have dabbled in *Sashiko* stitching and tried a bit of crazy quilting, however, none of the other members do work like Elaine.

Elaine taught herself crazy quilting while she and Paul were living at Mt Isa, Queensland, Australia. This was mid-July 1988 to January 1990. They had struck out from Canada having made a house exchange. Elaine's first pieces were made using things she had collected on her travels. She grew up in Montreal where her family made a living in the "Rag Trade", as fabric work was called. Her dad was in the *Cloak Operations Union*, the union for workers that created coats and suits. During the war, he worked at *Canadair* the civil and military air craft manufacturer. Post war, in 1948 Elaine's parents opened a fabric store with "dressmakers service" (making buttonholes, covered buttons, and belts as home machines did not have that capacity). They gave up the business in 1968 to become a factory specializing in producing covered buttons and belts for manufacturers. Elaine worked in the offices of several integrated women's wear factories - sleepwear, women's wear and outerwear - from the time she graduated high school at age 16 until she was married and moved to Yellowknife. Elaine says that she avoided working with fabric thinking that she didn't need that hobby. Despite her roots, and learning to sew in school, Elaine didn't actually take up sewing until she left home. She was blessed with a body shape that required dressmakers, rather than "off the rack" purchases.

She came to the quilt guild in 2003 at the suggestion of a quilter neighbour, Bev Higgins. Elaine was looking for someone who shared her crazy quilting interest - she got swept up by the group and learning different quilting techniques. From 2007 to 2013, Elaine was the guild Treasurer under Presidents June de Groot (#086) and Betty Mosher. In those years all the accounting was done by hand in a ledger and all payments were made by cheque. While the ledger shifted to a computer program in ~2014, true online banking with e-transfers for most payments didn't start until 2021 when Sandra Martin (#072) was Treasurer. By then, the world was turning more and more to online banking, so the guild needed to change.

Elaine did introduce some members to hand-work. She lead a 'redwork' workshop in 2005 and 2008 - in 2008 using a pattern of Nancy Halvorsen called *Joy to the World*. Redwork is a style of embroidery. Elaine uses a lot of 'stump work'/raised embroidery in her pieces. She lead the members in a fun evening of making 'postcards' for *Quilt Canada 2020* to raise funds for Alberta Children's Hospital (the show was cancelled because of the Covid Pandemic). Elaine's demonstration pieces were mini-appliqués - a bird or flower embellished with embroidery. In 2022, she organized the "Fill the Vase Challenge" where she provided a template of a vase and members were to fill it using whatever technique they wished - her's was filled with 3-D flowers, one used wool appliqué with Sue Spargo style stitches, another used Helen Godden's painted fabric technique, and another Valarie Wells' flip and sew technique. That year she was also part of the committee to set-up the Guild's display in the Library Showcase. This past year, Elaine has taken on organizing the 'Bucket Club' (see explanation #068).

Her quilting space is a small corner of the family room and the dining room table. She sews on a *Kenmore*, which she bought about 25 years ago. She does make regular "quilts" often for donation and she has made bed quilts for her children and grandchildren - her tally is about 20 quilts along with table toppers, runners, bags, and placemats. She always carries a "handbag" that is one of her textile/hand work creations. She doesn't quilt "heavily in the current style";

her patterns are usually straight line, echo or “mildly freeform”. She has a stash of quilting cotton and other fabrics for crazy quilting/art pieces, and she mostly shops locally. She doesn’t pre-wash fabrics.

Elaine has often entered her pieces in the *Kootenay Country Fair* and taken home the ribbon for adult needlework.

Quiltmaker	Elaine Ransom
Date of birth	August 1942
Where quiltmaker lived	Montreal, QC; Yellowknife, NWT ; Wycliffe, BC.

CQG #136 - *Crazy Quilt & Winter Dreams of a Summer Garden*
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Elaine Ransom

All four of the quilts that Elaine has registered (#136, 137) were made “just for fun” and all four are features of her home decor. While she has listed book references, Elaine combines motif ideas from a number of books to create her ‘signature’ quilts, wall-hangings, small sewing ‘chatelaines’ or stitching cases.

Pattern	<i>Crazy Quilt</i> designed & made by Elaine Ransom	<i>“Winter Dreams of a Summer Garden” - Crazy Quilt</i> designed & made by Elaine Ransom
Date	Specific date: 2009	Specific date: 2018
Size	L 53” X W 39½”	L 31 x W 31¼”
Overall Style	Finished Wall Hanging Non-traditional, “Crazy Block” Varied Blocks, Sash & Block	Finished Wall hanging Non-traditional, “Crazy Block” Varied blocks
Block	Crazy L 12” x W 12”, square Spacing: plain sashing Number of blocks: 12	Crazy L 9½” x W 9½”, square Spacing: side-by-side Number of blocks: 9
Sashing	W ¾”, straight Colour: pale pink	
Border or Frame	Border: W ¾”, straight Colour: pale pink (striped)	
Edge finishing	Binding: W 5/8”, straight, square corners Machine front/hand back Colour: pale pink (striped)	Facing: W 1¼”, straight, square corners Colour: purple corduroy Machine front/hand back

Batting	Cotton	Cotton
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: variety - geometric, flowers, plain/solid Feature colour: variety of pastels - pink, blue, green, white, tan	Cotton, polyester Weave: plain, upholstery, corduroy Motif: variety - geometric, flower, plain solid Feature colour: variety of pastels - blue, green, pink, coral, cream
Top piecing method	Machine piecing Hand-piecing	Machine piecing Hand piecing
Embellishments	Appliqué, Attachments, Embroidery (chevron, herringbone, cretan, fly, feather, stem, buttonhole, stem) [beads, buttons, cross-stitch, lace, ribbon]	Appliqué, Attachments, Embroidery (chevron, herringbone, cretan, fly, feather, stem, buttonhole, stem) [beads, buttons, cross-stitch, lace, ribbon]
Appliqué'	Realistic Flowers/leaves Method: turned edge, blanket/ decorative stitch	Realistic Flowers/leaves Method: turned edge, blanket/ decorative stitch
Novelty technique	Crazy, Fussy Cut, Couching, 3-D Appliqué	Crazy, Fussy Cut, Couching, 3-D Appliqué
Backing	One fabric Cotton, plain weave Colour: green, pink Motif: flowers	One fabric Cotton, Corduroy weave Colour: purple Motif: plain/solid Hanging sleeve
Quilting	None	None
Condition	Good	Good
Label	<i>Made by Elaine Ransom, Wycliffe, BC 2009 Cranbook Quilters Guild Viewer's Choice Honourable Mention Stories in Threads Quilt Show 2011</i>	<i>Kootenay Country Fair 1st Winter Dreams of a Summer Garden E Ransom August 2018</i>

CQG #137 - *Baltimore in Wycliffe & Summer Fantasy*
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Elaine Ransom

Baltimore Album - style quilted are based on ornately appliquéd and embellished quilts made in Baltimore, Maryland area in the mid-1800s. The blocks are "pictorial" - baskets overflowing with flowers, wreaths, ships, scrolls, homes/state buildings. The early quilts were thought to be

the combined effort of a number of women who donated blocks to commemorate a special occasion.¹

Pattern	<i>Baltimore In Wycliffe</i> designed and made by Elaine Ransom in style of a "Baltimore Album" - references used - Elly Sienkiewicz, "Baltimore Album Quilts", C&T Publishing, 1990. - Cindy Zlotnik Oravec, "Into the garden: Realistic Three Dimensional Flowers, Quilters Fantasy, 1995	<i>Summer Fantasy</i> , Jeanne. Sullivan: "Simply Successful Appliqué", C & T Publishing, 2012, p. 40
Subject	Florals	Basket of flowers
Date	Specific date: 2013	Specific date: 2016
Size	L 52¼" x W 51½"	L 36½" x 36½"
Overall style	Finished wall hanging Varied blocks, Realistic Sash & Block "Traditonal Baltimore Album"	Finished wall hanging Realistic Frame/Medallion
Block	Appliqué, Embroidery, Pictorial Block Shape: Unequal octagon Feature block: L 15" x W 15", square Spacing: plain sashing Number of blocks: 9	Medallion L 22¾" x 22¾" Shape: Unequal octagon Appliqué, Pictorial, Art
Sashing	W 1½", plain sashing, one fabric Straight Colour: tan print	
Border or Frame	Border: W 2", straight, one fabric Colour: cream print	Frame 1: W 1¾", one fabric, straight, Colour: pink print Frame 2: W 5", one fabric, straight Colour: light blue
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front and back Colour: cream print	Binding: W ⅝", straight, machine front/hand back Colour: light blue

¹ Jennifer Buechel, *Miniature Baltimore Album Quilts*, The Patchwork Place, Bothell, WA, 1997

Batting	Polyester	Unknown
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: conversational, plain/solid, flowered, novelty, geometric Feature colours: beige, off-white, green, brown Background colour: white	Cotton, plain weave Feature colour: cream, pink Motif: leaves, basket weave, flowers Background colour: light blue
Top piecing method	Machine piecing Appliqué	Machine piecing Appliqué
Appliqué	Motif: flowers/leaves, novelty Method: turned edge & raw edge, hand blanket/decorative stitch	Motif: flowers/leaves, novelty Method: turned edge & raw edge, hand blanket/decorative stitch
Embellishments	Attachments, Embroidery Motif: realistic, flowers/leaves Materials: beads, buttons, flowers, leaves, stem/outline Thread: DMC cotton, metallic	Attachments, Embroidery Motif: realistic, flowers/leaves Materials: beads, buttons, flowers, leaves, stem/outline Thread: DMC cotton, metallic
Novelty technique	Folding, rushing, fussy cut, 3-D Appliqué	Folding, rushing, fussy cut, 3-D Appliqué
Backing	3 pieces, Cotton, Plain weave Colour: beige Motif: basket weave	Cotton-blend Plain weave Colour: pink Motif: plain/solid
Quilting	Domestic machine quilting Thread: cotton, white Motif - pictorial (leaves), echo, outline	Domestic machine quilting Thread: cotton, light blue Patterns: grid, crosshatch, wavy parallel lines
Condition	Used/Good	Used/Good
Label	<i>Baltimore in Wycliffe</i> 2013 <i>I did it just because</i> Elaine Ransom	<i>Summer Fantasy</i> 2016 <i>Made by Elaine Ransom</i> Wycliffe, BC Canada <i>From the book: Simply Successful Appliqué by J Sullivan</i>