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My art that appears in this show has excitement for me over my other more traditional art. Call it experimental or innovative, but for me it's a chance to toss all the rules out the window. With it I find a way of answering the question that begins with: What if....? I try combinations of materials and techniques that are fresh and new to me.

It's a joyous opportunity to accomplish an art work using materials that ordinarily might be discarded—or at best, plunked in the recycle bin or toted to Goodwill—or at worst, wind up in a landfill. I try to use whatever materials I have on hand. I also try to work with these materials employing some durable techniques that I may never have used before or are just learning. 'Pop' rivets, for example, are used in one of my pieces in the show.

To me the best time in art making is the actual process when the idea takes shape and form. When things are going well, one step leads to the next. I love the physical acts of applying the paint, stitching the fabric or paper, or assembling the pieces.

I am a self-taught artist. I was never blessed with a formal art education. I take lessons with artists I admire but I can claim that the mistakes I make I make on my own. There is an advantage in not receiving formal art training. I never learned what I can't do, so I



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