



Joanie Zeier Poole's Embroidered Elegance I




There are a lot of reasons why I like this quilt.

The design is simple and elegant. The colors are rich. The threadwork is superb. But what I like most is that it represents its maker's willingness to learn something new and to infuse that something new with enough personal style to make it truly her own.

This is Joanie Zeier Poole's first machine-embroidered quilt.

Those of you who know the Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, quiltmaker or have taken her classes know that she is a top authority on heirloom machine quilting, with three books on the subject to her credit. How does someone who has become an expert on making things look "heirloom" switch to a high-tech craft like machine embroidery?

"I have not made a switch," Joanie says. "I am blending. I consider heirloom to be a style choice that dictates the materials used as well as the scale and density of the quilted patterns."

Joanie, who has a degree in graphic design and says she uses her computer to create art every day, drew the central motif in Adobe Illustrator. Then she exported it to Creative DRAWings, embroidery software that can convert artwork to stitchable designs that are compatible with most embroidery machines on the market today. She used a combination of her own artwork and the software's filler patterns to complete this 25" x 29" piece, which illustrates what can happen when a person with both computer skills and sewing savvy combines her talents to create art. "Great rewards are out there when you push yourself to move forward in your work," Joanie concludes. 

Joanie's Picks:

Radiance by Robert Kaufman, a line of silk and cotton blend fabrics

Creative DRAWings machine embroidery software

This quilt won second place in the computer-aided machine embroidery category at the fall 2008 International Quilt Festival in Houston, Texas.