

# Quilt Art – Material Evidence

## Review by Sarah Tomlinson

'Material Evidence' is an exhibition of textile art by current and former members of the pan-European group Quilt Art.

Featured artists: Eszter Bornemisza, Jette Clover, Yael David-Cohen, Fenella Davies, Dirkje van der Horst-Beetsma, Sue Hotchkis, Ingne Hueber, Sara Impey, Cherilyn Martin, Gabi Mett, Dominie Nash, Mirjam Pet-Jacobs, Karina Thompson, Janet Twinn, Isabelle Weissler, Charlotte Yde.

The free exhibition is held in the downstairs gallery at MAC Birmingham, open daily from 9am – 9.30pm. There's a café, bar and other exhibitions to see, currently one of ceramics by MAC students, running until June. This is worth a thought as the quilt exhibition is fairly small, taking an hour or so to look around; if you have travelled any distance to see it, you might like to make a day of it.

I found the exhibition well worth a visit – the sheer variety of work and different approaches to quilting was extremely interesting. There is something to inspire everyone, regardless of particular preferences! *The Ones that Got Away* by Charlotte Yde (below and top, opposite) really stood out. It is composed of layers of coloured silk organza printed using discharge dye remover to reveal underlying colours. The whole thing moves and ripples if you blow on it and is a truly beautiful piece.

Mirjam Pet-Jacobs used a whole range of materials, including paint and lacquered fabrics, to produce *Can We Leave Things as They Are?* (bottom, opposite).



The strange skeletal figures moving in a surreal landscape left more questions than answers for me.

Local artist Karina Thompson's *Recovery Quilt* was about recovering from a bout of depression. The bright colours and exquisite machine stitching were a joy to look at. Janet Twinn, too, had a beautifully coloured quilt on display. Other artists, such as Sue Hotchkis and Eszter Bornemisza, have experimented with unconventional materials and techniques such as plastic and the use of a heat gun on painted fabric, producing fascinating effects. Sara Impey explores both words and recycling of thread in a single quilt, while Ingne Hueber displayed some beautifully accurate fabric manipulation and use of colour to produce *The Sea*.

The catalogue which accompanies the exhibition is good value, too!

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
13 Jan – 27 May 2024.

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Below: *Can We Leave Things as They Are?*  
by Mirjam Pet-Jacobs



Right and detail, opposite page:  
*The Ones that Got Away* by Charlotte Yde

