



Commission information and ideas

Why do a commission?

A commission gives you a chance to be a part of the creative process and to have a piece that fits in with your lifestyle, color scheme and budget. From my point of view it's often a chance to stretch as an artist. For everyone concerned it's a collaborative effort that takes more time and energy. But it gives you a way to interact with a piece that is more truly yours than a piece you simply buy. Creation is a magical process. This is a chance to be a part of it.

When is a commission a good idea?

When you know what you want.

When you are able to visualize ideas easily.

When you need a particular color scheme, size, subject matter, or price range for a work that isn't otherwise available.

When you have specific ideas in mind.

When you have time to wait for your special piece.

When my stock of work is low and you want a customized design to match your interests.

When you want to commemorate someone, a pet or some event in the style of my work.

Designing Questions

I need to know what you need and think about your special piece. These questions help guide me to the art piece of your dreams.

- **Subject Matter:** Do you have a subject in mind? When commissioning a piece it is best to want a piece that represents my artistic style but has some special elements you request. I can draw most anything, but my work is intrinsically about things that are grown. Vegetables, flowers, water, food, and even animals are possibilities. Try to think about what you really like about my art. Don't be afraid to tell me a story that may help me become inspired for the creation of your piece. I am willing to reach past what I usually do and try other things, but it is important that the commissioned piece still be within my genre.

Backgrounds: Does this design honor one or two objects (tomatoes, broccoli tulips, etc.) or are your objects within a setting?

Color Choices: There are so many ways of looking at color. Do you have a place you have traveled that illustrates a certain color scheme? Share a picture of your favorite vacation. Do you have a plant, an article of clothing or some photo that captures a color scheme you like. Is there a certain color you wish to see a lot of, or a color you hope does not have a dominant role. Color is very important to my pieces. If you want to leave this up to me that is OK too. I hope to stretch your ideas about color. My pieces usually have more than 25 colors. We can choose to work with the color schemes already in your home, but this can limit your pallet unnecessarily. We can also think about how you feel about certain colors. Is there a season or time of year filled with colors that delight you? Give this some thought and we will include your ideas in the piece.

Size: This kind of stitching shrinks fabric in unpredictable ways and I can only estimate sizes. I can promise to be within 2 inches of the size you request. The final price will be determined by the final measurement. For your size choice, think about where your quilt will hang. It's very dramatic to have your quilt totally fill the space. But you may choose to have it framed by the space on the wall. Since my art is priced by size, sometimes the price of a commission decides the size of the work.

Orientation: Your quilt can be square, rectangular or irregularly shaped. It can be oriented vertically or horizontally. I can either stick with straight borders or we can break out of the borders with the design.

Your Room: Do think about the room this is going into. Something playful and wild might be great for the family room but unnerving over the dinner table. Tell me all about the room you plan to hang your art piece in. Do you use this room for

play? Sleep? Work? Relaxing? Energizing? Renewal? Is it in a public space or a private space? Is it a room primarily for adults or children?

Pricing: Most work I do now is priced at \$150 per square foot. That can include work using sheer and brocade appliqué, machine embroidered appliqué, machine piecing, direct appliqué, hand-dyed cottons, machine embroidery, beading, curved borders, and couching. This chart gives some idea of basic prices.

Remember, one of the great cost savings with my art is that there is no need for framing.

Width	Length	Price
9"	11"	\$150
12"	12"	\$150
12"	30"	\$375
18"	22"	\$412.5
15"	40"	\$625
24"	36"	\$900
30"	45"	\$1,406.25
45"	54"	\$2,531.25
60"	72"	\$4,500

The Process:

Answer the designing questions for me. Once I have an idea what you would like, I can draw a sketch of the piece.

First sketch: It will be roughly to scale and will include most of the design decisions. There is a \$50 non-refundable fee for sketch(es) that will be deducted from the price of your art quilt at the final payment.

Payment: Either at the time you pay me for sketches, or at the delivery of the sketch, I will give you an estimated price for your art quilt. At the delivery time of the sketches I can give you an estimated completion date. For me to start your quilt, I will need a deposit of 1/2 the price of your piece. For very large pieces I will consider splitting the down payment into three parts (30% at sketches, 30% more when the piece is half done and 40% upon completion). This covers my materials only, and is nonrefundable. However, I may offer you the option of having your down payment applied to another quilt, should you wish to do that within 6 months of your quilt's arrival. If this option is available to you it will be indicated in your contract. Full payment is due when your art quilt is completed. If you need to negotiate payments, we can do that.

Making your quilt: Once I receive an OK on the drawing and your deposit I will work on your piece. I will have you put your approval in writing as it binds us both to what we have agreed upon. I may contact you from time to time to discuss design decisions and to make sure things are processing correctly. If you have new ideas or questions, we can and should talk about them as they arise. If you wish me to send you photos in process, we can negotiate that.

Finishing up: I will finish and send you your piece as close to the due date as I possibly can. Upon delivery, the full price of the art piece is due. Payment plans are negotiable. Usually I keep the piece while you make payments. I will indicate at the time you sign the contract if your piece if one I will accept back to trade-up. If it is, you will have trade up rights on your quilt. You may apply the price of your piece to any other quilt of mine and trade it for 6 months after purchase. Usually I offer trade up rights, but sometimes your commission may be so personal to you that it would be unlikely for me to sell to another.

Show Negotiations:

For larger works I may wish to negotiate show rights for later. That means that your quilt may be gone to a show for some period of time. Since that can be hardship, I do offer a discount for owners who allow me to show new work.

Commissions take an immense amount of time and energy. If you are in love with a specific piece, it's always easier to purchase a work that is finished. But a commission allows you into to art process and gives you a piece that is yours in a very satisfying way. Call Denise Cawley at Pizzazz Studios (414) 412-9990 to begin your commissioned art quilt.