

Denyse Schmidt Quilts Bio



Photo by Lane du Pont

Denyse Schmidt Quilts

a modern take on the classic quilt

A former graphic designer and graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Denyse Schmidt has been sewing since she was a young girl, taught by her mother. As a professional seamstress, Denyse worked on everything from tutus and bishop's mitres to fine clothing. She brings these eclectic influences together in patchwork quilts characterized by simple graphics, rich color, and quality workmanship.

Firmly rooted in the techniques of quilt-making in this country, Denyse reinterprets tradition to make modern functional quilts that are fresh and offbeat. Her Couture custom quilts, in production since 1996, are pieced to order in her studio and hand-quilted by Amish women in Minnesota. Denyse Schmidt Works, a line of machine-quilted pillows and quilts with an industrial-chic aesthetic, are made at her studio located in a Bridgeport, CT factory building. Clients of DSQ have included The Philip Johnson Glass House, Ralph Pucci International, Takashimaya, The University of Michigan Art Museum, The American Folk Art Museum, and The Whitney Museum Store.

Denyse's licensing partnerships include books and stationery featuring her quilts and fabric designs with Chronicle Books; a new book *Modern Quilts, Traditional Inspiration* with Stewart, Tabori & Chang (Spring 2012); vintage-inspired consumer fabrics with FreeSpirit/Westminster Fibers Lifestyle Fabrics; fabric for chain store distribution under the name DS Quilts Collection with Fabric Traditions; quilt patterns for McCall Pattern Company; and Denyse Schmidt Designs for Sarita Handa, an affordable line of high-quality quilts and accessories that were distributed through boutique and specialty shops worldwide, as well as catalogs and stores such as Pottery Barn, Land of Nod, Crate & Barrel, Neiman Marcus, Maine Cottage Furniture, and ABC Carpets.

In October 2001, Denyse travelled to Honduras for Aid to Artisans, where she worked with local artists to develop accessories she designed, assisting in their mission to introduce their product to western markets. DSQ has donated many quilts to charitable and non-profit organizations for fund-raising efforts.

Denyse's journals and drawings are featured in *Drawing From Life, The Journal as Art* by Jennifer New (Princeton Architectural Press, June 2005). Her quilts are featured in *American Contemporary Furniture* (Rizzoli International Publications, 2000), and *Diamond Baratta Design* (Bulfinch, 2006). Denyse's approach to design and business, and her work has been celebrated in print, including *Craft Inc.* by Meg Mateo Iasco (Chronicle Books, 2007), *You Can Do It* by Lauren Catuzzi Grancolas (Chronicle Books, 2005), and *The Crafter Culture Handbook* by Amy Spencer (Marion Boyers, 2007). Denyse recently wrote the foreword to the Modern Quilt Guild's first book, *Block Party* by Alissa Haight Carlton and Kristen Lejniaks (Stash Books, 2011).

Denyse's work has been published in hundreds of distinguished magazines and newspapers world wide, including: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, *American Craft*, *Yankee Magazine*, *O the Oprah Magazine*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *House Beautiful*, *Country Living*, *Town & Country* and *People Magazine*. She has appeared on several national television shows, including *Martha Stewart Living*. Her work has been exhibited around the country. Denyse Schmidt was born in 1961 and grew up in central Massachusetts, surrounded by the textile mill towns prevalent in that area. She lives in Bridgeport, CT.