

BELOIT ART CENTER'S NEXT EXHIBIT TO FEATURE QUILTS, BANNERS AND MORE

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Photo by Debra Jensen-De Hart Pam Moller shows one of her "Falling Leaves" quilted panels she will exhibit at the Beloit Art Center's Quilt Show set to open from 5-8 p.m. Friday at 520 E. Grand Ave.

BELOIT - Carrie Ellen Montgomery probably never realized in 1928 that her ample double-sized, hand-stitched quilt with the appliqued purple irises would someday be displayed in an art show.

However, that's just what her granddaughter, Sally McFerren, plans to do.

That coverlet and other traditional quilts and art quilts plus banners and more will be exhibited beginning Friday from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Beloit Art Center, 520 E. Grand Ave. The event is open to the public.

The fabric quilts will be exhibited in the Main Gallery. The Bell Gallery will feature a corresponding mixed media on wood display. From 5 - 6 p.m. Steve Bogdonas will provide classical guitar music and at 6 p.m. the quilters will talk about their work.

McFerren, who has owned Attic Quilts in downtown Beloit for more than two decades, said her grandmother was quite an influence in her life.

"Grandma was an artist, she also painted a picture and hooked a rug to go along with the quilt with irises," she said. "I have memories of going to grandma's in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I loved going there. She would give me boxes of fabric. My dolls had the most elegant wardrobes."

McFerren also will display two other traditional quilts that contain intense jewel tone colors which were created during a block of the month program. Others created the blocks and she put them all together, she said.

Pam Moller and Karen Neuendorf will exhibit their art quilts.

Among the many quilts Moller will display is a four-panel series of wall hangings. The striking three-dimensional pieces measure a total of 14 feet and are titled "Falling Leaves."

Moller, who began quilting in 2007, said she loves trees and draws inspiration from nature and her surroundings. And she loves to experiment. That includes with dying, painting and colorizing fabrics.

"There's no end to it, I am learning something new all the time," she said.

Each time she does a project, Moller says it is unique.

"I don't follow the rule of copy, copy. I try to do something different each time."

Neuendorf has been a quilter since 2008. Many of her quilts reflect the places she has traveled to. Others are based on her love of circles and bright colors.

"Art quilting gives me the opportunity to create with no boundaries," she says.

The St. Paul Piecemakers have been meeting every Tuesday for 25 years at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Initially they made quilted banners representing the church year. That has grown to include quilts for high school graduates and Comfort Quilts for those who are ill or in need of prayer and comfort. The Piecemakers include: Jean Neitzel, Billie Kenitzer, Jackie Nicholson and Karen Neaf.

In the Bell Gallery, Molly Dillon will exhibit "Putting the Pieces Together." "The series was inspired by the pieces that make up a quilt, the colors, patterns and their placement that tell a story or at least set a certain feeling or mood," Dillon says.

The mixed media pieces have a base of wood with added paint, felt, glue and stone to add texture and dimension.

Several items in both the Main Gallery and the Bell Gallery will be for sale.