

EXHIBIT | RIFFE GALLERY

# Pick of the patch

With rich variety, 'Quilt National '09' displays a facility for stitched fabric

By Nancy Gilson

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

If you missed the summer's "Quilt National '09" exhibit in Athens, the Dairy Barn Arts Center has a way to make it up to you.

After each biennial exhibit of some of the world's most innovative works of fabric, the Dairy Barn divides the show in three and sends each part on tour. For the eighth time, a selection is on display Downtown in the Riffe Gallery.

Thirty quilts, almost all of them abstract, show the remarkable innovation and artistry of women (and several men) who find expression in layers of colorful fabric and thread.

The first piece to catch a viewer's eye is *Silence*, a small but powerful quilt by Bexley resident Judy Rush that hangs at the entrance to the exhibit.

Contrasting in size is *Architectural Squares*, built of luxurious silk squares, by Pendleton, S.C., quilter Christine Tedesco.

Among the most whimsical works is New York artist Kathy York's *Little Fish in a Big City*, an aerial view of an apple-shaped city with orange and red fabric buildings extending toward viewers and surrounded by gold fish navigating the streets between. The piece looks entirely different but equally stunning up close and far away.

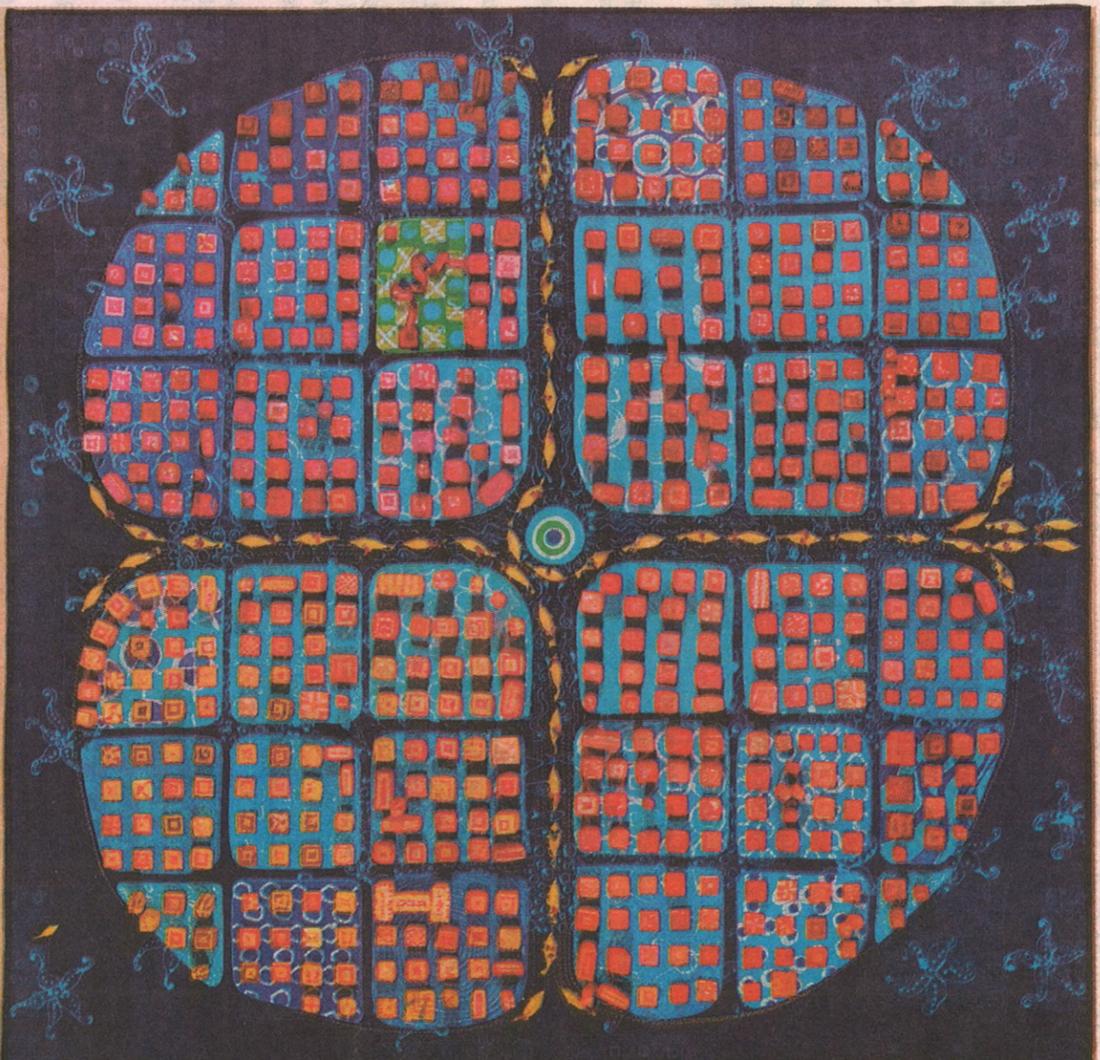
Erin M. Wilson of New York created *Miscellany*, a variation on the traditional log-cabin pattern. Her piece, 20 inches wide and 61 inches tall, takes on the shape and look of a high-rise apartment building with colorful, distinctive windows.

The only portrait in the exhibit is by Shin-hee Chin of MCPHerson, Kan. In *(Choon San) Spring Mountain*, she creates an image of her mother — and a representation of all Asian women — in a Chuck Close-style grid of recycled fabrics and fabric paint.

Perhaps the most spectacular and sobering work is *Postages: Memorial Day*, a collection of 4,083 miniature, individually crafted U.S. flags, representing the number of American soldiers who had died in Iraq when Kathleen Loomis of Louisville, Ky., created the quilt in 2008. Sadly, the artist has left a column where more flags can be added.

The exhibit, according to Director Mary Gray, is one of the Riffe Gallery's most popular returning events.

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*Little Fish in a Big City* by Kathy York



*(Choon San) Spring Mountain* by Shin-hee Chin

► "Quilt National '09" continues through Jan. 17 in the Riffe Gallery, 77 S. High St. Hours: noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays. Call 614-644-9624 or visit [www.riffegallery.org](http://www.riffegallery.org).



*Silence* by Judy Rush