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## ***Inspired to Quilt*** ***Creative Experiments in Art Quilt Imagery*** Melanie Testa

***Inspired to Quilt: Creative Experiments in Art Quilt Imagery*** (Interweave, May 2009, \$24.95) is a technique-driven book that explores the art quilt design process from concept to stunning finished product by delving into new and innovative ideas while coaching readers to find their unique voice. Fabric artists and quilters will explore a wide range of techniques and materials available today, then translate those ideas and techniques into small experimental projects such as fabric postcards, artist trading cards, purses, and more.

Author Melanie Testa offers advanced beginner art quilters and fiber and mixed-media artists an inventive method for designing art quilts. "I bring forth a fresh, new design sensibility, and describe how to use today's most relevant techniques, like soy wax batik, stamp making and freezer-paper resist with an easy-going, light-hearted approach," she says.

Through a variety of hands-on exercises and surface-design methods, she shows how to jumpstart the design process and discover personal style. Step-by-step instructions and full-color photography for methods include: fabric printing, fabric manipulation, stamping, resists, layering, fabric painting, dyeing, stitching, appliqué, collage, machine embroidery, beading, and more.

Readers will also learn useful finishing techniques that put the final touches on an art quilt, plus how to make unique bindings and creative fixes. Readers will also learn insider tips and tricks for making the most of their time and resources. Chapters explore:

- Fabric surface-design techniques
- Combining techniques with creative inspiration from the reader's journal
- Fabric collage methods using your stash
- Fabric manipulation, machine-embroidery images, thread color gradations, and quilting layers
- Surface embellishments for quilts, from beading to hand drawing

Projects include:

- **Pretty Purse:** This small project created from hand-dyed and embroidered fabric can be whipped up for a quick gift.
- **Sewing Holster:** A sweet and useful handmade holster to organize your sewing supplies.

- **Merit Badges:** Perfect for a deserving friend, these colorful badges—or patches—give value to certain events or just say thank you.
- **Artist Trading Cards:** Created in any media, the small size of these miniature works of art make them easy to complete and just as easy to give away.

Learn to transform a concept into a finished art quilt using new and innovative ideas while capturing your unique design style with *Inspired to Quilt*.

**INSPIRED TO QUILT: CREATIVE EXPERIMENTS IN ART QUILT IMAGERY**

**Melanie Testa**

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8½ x 10¼ • paperback • 136 pages • 200 photographs

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**About the author:** Melanie Testa is an accomplished textile and quilt artist. She attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in Textile/Surface Design and has taken many courses from well-known quilt and surface-design artists, including Natasha Kemper-Cullens, Ann Johnston, Carol Soderlund, and Jane Dunnewold. She exhibits her fiber art at various galleries and quilt shows around the country and currently teaches fiber arts at Coconino Community College. Her articles have appeared in *Quilting Arts Magazine*, the *Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) Journal*, and she has appeared on *Quilting Arts Television*. She lives in Flagstaff, Arizona.

**About Interweave**

Interweave, a unit of Aspire Media, is one of the nation's largest and most respected arts and craft media companies, with businesses in magazine and book publishing, online media, television and video programming, directories, and events. The Interweave Publishing Group features 18 subscription magazines and many more special interest publications sold on newsstands nationwide. Interweave has more than 250 books in print and annually publishes about 40 how-to books on the same subjects as the company's magazines. Additionally, Interweave produces several major events for fiber and bead, gem, and jewelry-making enthusiasts and has an extensive Internet network of more than 30 websites and daily e-mail newsletters. Interweave is the proud sponsor of three craft television series airing on PBS: *Quilting Arts TV*, a fresh, contemporary quilting program; *Beads, Baubles, & Jewels*, public television's only how-to program for beading and jewelry-making enthusiasts; and public television's newest show for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, *Knitting Daily TV*.

Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colorado, and other offices in New York, New York; Malvern, Pennsylvania; Santa Fe, New Mexico; San Diego, California; and Stow, Massachusetts. For more information on Interweave, visit [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com) or call (970) 669-7672.

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