SAQA’s Global Exhibition “3D Expression” offers a fascinating glimpse into a new, revolutionary dimension of art quilts, creatively interpreted by artists from 14 states and 10 countries. The wide variety of pieces featured in the exhibition include vessels, wearables, wall-pieces, and sculptural artworks.

This cutting-edge exhibition shows how textile art can come off the wall and expand both into the third dimension as well as the future; allowing visitors to examine art quilts in a whole new way!

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the art quilt: “a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure.” With access to our museum-quality exhibition program, SAQA members challenge the boundaries of art and change perceptions about contemporary fiber art.

Tour offerings, demonstrations and group discussions will address the major themes of “the Repurposing and Transformation of Everyday Objects,” and “Art and its Influences and Critiques on Society,” while also examining the use of quilting and fabric as forms of non-verbal communication in our everyday lives, from nautical flags to the underground railroad in the United States. Each topic perfectly supports E.L.A. and Social Studies lessons while also aligning with New York State P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts.

Tours are offered free of charge with all materials provided. Apply for one of our Bus Grants to cover transportation costs associated with bringing your students to and from the Quick Center for your visit.

Please visit https://www.sbu.edu/quickcenter/arts-education/school-bus-grant-application for more information.
ACCOMPANYING ART ACTIVITIES

Shibori Indigo Dying

Shibori is a Japanese word used to describe a variety of manual resist techniques that create patterns in various fabrics dyed in Indigo vats. Indigo, one of the oldest known natural dyes, is derived from the Indigofera tinctoria plant and has been used for centuries as a luxury product and the foundation of centuries-old textile traditions, achieving new found popularity in the 2000s.

Participants will learn about history and design while using various tools and techniques to create patterns on anything from bolts of cloth to draw string bags and then dye their work in a pre-reduced Indigo bath. Students of all ages and stages can adapt simple to complex Shibori techniques to construct beautiful works of fabric art. Final results can be left as is, cut into blocks and attached to canvas, or sewn together to create an entirely new work inspired by the “3D Expression” exhibition.

3D Fabric Landscapes

Inspired by the works in the exhibition that expand quilts beyond flat works hung on the walls, students will employ layers of synthetic, natural and open weave fabrics to establish value, form, color and texture. Participants will discover the sculptural, relief based qualities of fabric as the mock-up their designs in cheese cloth and yarn before filling in their landscape with appliques, pastels and water-color pencils.

Artistic Ecosystems

Have your students create a classroom felted garden or design a one of a kind ecosystem base in this S.T.E.A.M. centered activity! Participants will design a plant using quilting based elements, deciding the environment in which their plant will grow, crafting an ecosystem where it may flourish, and determining its benefits and drawbacks for other life forms, all while dictating its care instruction were it actually to exist.