**ARTIST STATEMENT**

 As a young girl growing up in Kentucky, I was drawn to and influenced by traditional handcrafts. I learned traditional quilting techniques from my Appalachian aunts and was fascinated, even as a young child, with the interplay of color, form and texture. Although I no longer utilize the traditional techniques I learned as a child, I am still fascinated with the process of creating something from bits and pieces of almost nothings that I come across. Most of my work utilizes techniques of collage to create a new whole from these bits and pieces. My work results from the bringing together of handmade paper, commercial paper, and found objects with additions of paint and ink.

 My interest has always been in color, form and texture and the ways in which those three elements interact with one another. I do not strive to have my finished work resemble any object or person in a realistic way. Instead, I want to see whether I can successfully create energy and mood through the colors, forms and textures I use in the piece.

 My work has been displayed in U.S. galleries, museums and exhibits in Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, including academic institutions in New York (St. John’s University), Arkansas (Crittenden County Community College) and Tennessee (Christian Brothers University). I have participated in international solo and invitational exhibits in Fabriano, Gubbio, Milan and Foligno, Italy as well as Spa, Belgium. One of my fabric collages was the cover image for, as well as the subject of an article in, the August/September 2014 edition of Quilting Arts magazine. My art has also been featured in the May/June 2015 edition of Kentucky Home and Gardens magazine and the March 2010 issue of ArteCulture, an Italian monthly magazine. Currently, my art is in the permanent collections of Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee; the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky; Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington, Kentucky; LeBonheur Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee and the Jessamine County Public Library, Nicholasville, Kentucky as well as in numerous private collections.