

## *Ana Buzzalino*

I was introduced to sewing early in life by my grand-mother and mother, who were both avid sewers. My grandfather was a partner in a company who sold cashmere, wool and high-quality cloth for suits and coats, etc. I remember going to visit him at the “office”. He would take us into the warehouse area and let my mother choose cuts of fabric to make my sister and I coats and dresses and skirts. I used to leave with the odds and ends that nobody wanted. Thus, I believe, began my love for scraps!

My earliest recollection of life in a small town in Buenos Aires province (Argentina), where I was born, was of me sitting in the family room, beside my mother’s sewing machine, while she sewed the afternoon away. She used to cut the pattern for a skirt after lunch, and would wear it a few nights later for dinner. I, in the meantime, would gather the scraps, and make clothes for my teddy bears!

When I moved to Calgary, my first purchase was a sewing machine. One day, a few years later, I was walking down in the Kensington area of Calgary at lunch time and went by a store that had a “Blanket” in the window. I went in and enquired about purchasing it; they told me it was not for sale, but that they would gladly teach me how to make my own quilt. I signed up that same day, and the rest, as they say, is HISTORY! What started as a curious interest in quilting in 1985 quickly evolved into a passion.

I am a creator, maker, fibre and mixed media artist, surface designer, teacher and lecturer. My love of layers and texture combine in creating my original work. I achieve results using a combination of different surface design techniques such as monoprinting, hand-painting, free-motion stitching and hand-stitching, amongst others to achieve the effects I am searching for. My work has won numerous awards at national and international shows. The techniques I use in my work can often be found in articles published by Quilting Arts Magazine, A Needle Pulling Thread and others. I have also appeared several times in Quilting Arts TV. I am currently teaching online from my studio in Calgary, Alberta.