

Peel Bldg. Bk.

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# Mississauga artist reaps what she sews

By STEPHANIE INNES  
Staff Reporter

For a patchwork effort, Margaret Stephenson Coole's latest piece of artwork is not doing too badly.

Coole, who took up quilting as a hobby just over 10 years ago, is one of 80 international artists to have their work accepted for the a Japanese exhibit entitled "Fabric Gardens." The Fabric Gardens is an international exhibition of quilts specifically produced for the Expo '90 International Garden and Greenery Exposition in Osaka, Japan.

More than 800 entries were submitted by 532 artists from 16 countries. Coole's quilt, entitled "Spring Rain," was one of five Canadian quilts chosen for the display.

"I started Spring Rain when my husband and I were on a holiday in Florida," said Coole. "I needed something fast and easy to keep my idle fingers busy while I was sitting around the pool."

All the prints used in her Spring Rain quilt are garden prints. A sea-green solid is the background to glazed cotton decorator fabric pieces. Coole actually created a garden scene on the quilt with the pieces she cut from patterned material purchased at B.B. Bargoons depicting blue tulips, cornmeal daisies and lilac clusters.

"The store no longer has the fabric in stock because it was purchased over a year ago when I started the quilt. I did have enough of the fabric left over to make some blocks which I will bring with me to Japan to give as gifts."

Coole will be on hand in Osaka later this month to observe the Fabric Gardens show, which is scheduled for display until September. All quilts were designed to fit the theme "Gardens and Greenery: the Harmonious Fabric of Nature."

Expo '90 marks the first time an international horticultural exposition recognized by the Association of International Horticulture Producers has been held in Asia.

The Fabric Gardens will be displayed at eight venues throughout Japan, including the Expo '90 site July 6-8. After the Japanese tour, most of the quilts will begin a two-year tour of museums and galleries throughout the United States and Europe as part of the Dairy Barn Touring Exhibits Program.

A Japanese-English catalogue of the full Fabric Gardens collection, including the work of Margaret Stephenson Coole, will be available in May. The volume will include photographs of the current exhibit and essays by the jurors. Requests should be sent to Fabric Gardens, Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center, P.O. Box 747, Athens, Ohio, U.S.A.; phone (614) 592-4981.



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Margaret Stephenson Coole has had her quilts displayed all over the world. Her latest, "Spring Rain," is currently on display at the Fabric Gardens in Japan. Coole's cathedral window technique (inset) is unique to her work, giving the quilt a quality of technical intrigue.