

# “ICE - COLD - FROZEN” Challenge

## JUROR’S STATEMENT

**Quilts on the Wall** members have taken up two challenges through their lens as a textile artists. Seven of the artists’ work are represented in **HEAT**, another Challenge I juried, and which is exhibited concurrently with **Ice-Cold-Frozen**. Spend some time with both Challenges and **feel the temperature change for yourself.**

I found it amusing to begin this selection with “**Shaved Ice**” by **Laurie Bucher**. The colors in the frosted ice cool us down from the heat to begin a trip into a much colder environment.

Imagine driving into a frozen landscape with a storm brewing ahead. The air is getting colder, the sky darker. “**Wintry Mix**” by **Guila Greer** shows just such a landscape with her hand-dyed fabrics indicating barren trees standing tall against the ominous sky.

**Janet Tranbarger** takes us further into this landscape with “**Crazy Cold**”. The blizzard begins, the trees and colors are barely visible. The muted colors give us a subtle message.

Hop on a cruise ship and sail up to “**Glacier Bay, Alaska - September 20, 2017**”. As **Christine Castano** glides us past the glaciers, we can almost hear the roaring sound as they break off into the sea. Her machine piecing mimics the complexity of the ice sheets, and her quilting lines add even more complexity. In spite of that, the overall effect is serene.

**Sharon Jaeger’s “Chickadees in Winter”** is beautiful in both its simplicity and its complexity. The snowflakes, with the repeated yet individual geometric patterns and the soft snow on the branches of the trees are balanced by the frozen plants at the bottom, delicate and brittle, waiting for Spring. The multidirectional patterning of the sky is reiterated in the pattern of the branches, and the linear textured tree trunks calm the composition. The chickadees are simple shapes, yet the use of solid and printed fabrics, trapunto, and yarn textured feet give them life. Even the distant hills are textured for maximum effect.

**Anne Turley** surprises us with her ski companions in “**Out of His Element - The Ski Patrol.**” The warm textured neck scarf make me feel the wind. Her use of multiple fabrics for the snow on the hillside and the trees, and the beautifully hand-dyed sky put a chill in the air. The textured tree trunks are especially wonderful.

**Beth Shibley's "Chill"** is a beautiful example of piecing and hand stitching. Her cool colors are pieced into diamond shapes with the vertical and horizontal lines carrying us through the composition, and dots of other colors really bring it to life. It amazes me how the different color palette in her similarly constructed quilt ("**Sunshiny Day**" in "**Heat**") achieves such a different sensibility.

**"Ice Blue"** gives us a chance to stop for an ice-cold drink. **Vicki Bohnhoff's** abstraction of the image can be seen as the ice cubes she started with, but the gradation of colors lets us imagine sunlight and shadow on a cold stream cascading over rocks as well.

**"Frosty Falls"** by **Carol Churchill** plays beautifully with texture and color. The seemingly uniform stripes of the waterfall are much more complex when viewed close-up. The variety in the fabrics, the sparkles, the irregular edges, the textured treatment of the edges, even the border of the piece, all add to the feeling of the flowing stream getting colder as it turns to ice.

It has been enjoyable to work with the members of **Quilts on the Wall** and to watch their talent grow and evolve. Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to view the wonderful artwork and was honored to jury both parts of the exhibit, **HEAT** and **ICE-COLD-FROZEN**. I enjoyed the variety of interpretations, colors, textures, and even humor. I hope you, too, will take the time to feel the temperature adjust right before your eyes.

**Kathleen McCabe**