

Category: Breaking News

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Meet the TQS 2016 BOM Designer: Lessa Siegele

We caught up with Lessa at IQA Houston 2015.

Teacher, judge and quilt maker Lessa has been teaching quilting since the mid '70s and has enjoyed every moment of meeting and sharing her knowledge with quilters around Australia and abroad. She is a Life Member of the Quilters Guild of South Australia and was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday honours in June 2002 for services to the art of quiltmaking as a teacher. She was presented with the Rajah Award at AQC in Melbourne in 2007. Her love is traditional quilts and promoting early Australian quilts. - See more at: <http://aqc.com.au/about-the-tutors-in-2016/#sthash.dzTgrf2E.dpuf>

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Meet Lessa Siegele, the designer of the TQS 2016 BOM "The Rajah Quilt Revisited." Teacher, judge and quilt maker Lessa has been teaching quilting since the mid-70s and has enjoyed every moment of meeting and sharing her knowledge with quilters around Australia and abroad. She is a Life Member of the Quilters Guild of South Australia and was awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) in the Queen's Birthday honours in June 2002, for services to the art of quiltmaking as a teacher. She was presented with the Rajah Award at AQC (Australian Quilt Convention) in Melbourne in 2007.

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Lessa Siegele has a passion for historic Australian quilts and teaching. One of her favorites is the *Rajah Quilt*, in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. It's a huge quilt, approximately 128" inches square. Made in 1841, it was sewn by women convicts on board the ship *Rajah*, which left England in April 1841 and arrived at the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land (now known as Tasmania) that July. The original quilt bears the following inscription:

This quilt worked by the Convicts of the ship Rajah during their voyage to Van Diemen's Land is presented as a testimony of the gratitude with which they remember their exertions for their welfare while in England and during their passage and also as proof that they have not neglected the Ladies kind admonition of being industrious. June 1841

Lessa recreated the *Rajah Quilt* in a quarter scale with fabrics from her stash. She used many different scraps, imagining that's what might have happened when the original quilt was being made. She loosely followed the colors of the original quilt, and tea-dyed fabrics that didn't look old enough (you could also use reproduction fabrics). The TQS version is more contemporary, using Cotton + Steel fabrics.