

Erin Wilson

Vale Craft Gallery

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My work begins with the interplay of colors. I dye my fabrics without rigid recipes or formulas, achieving subtle variations in each color family through repeated mixing and gradation of the dyes. Technically, I adhere to the traditional rules of patchwork – the quilts are entirely pieced. But, like my dyeing, my design process is spontaneous, without advance planning or sketching. The piecing is intricate: thin strips of fabric sometimes as narrow as 1/16" become like pen lines on each small "canvas." Contained within the regularity of the overall grid structure, each block is a separate vibrant, complex composition, dense with visual information. Although I have built up a language of forms and gestures that recur in my work, each block is a new improvisation. No two are alike. I draw inspiration from all directions:

The urban architecture that surrounds me, a chance grouping of colors on the fabric shelf, my imagination. I hope the resulting quilts are satisfying on two levels: from a distance, there is an overall color flow in the arrangement of the blocks; up close, each block contains a story without words, to be discovered- or invented- by the viewer.