
A New Quilt Mural in Quilt City USA



...AND OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE!, 55½" x 33¾", by Melinda Bula

A Flag for the Floodwall

A new mural has been installed on the floodwall surrounding the Schroeder Expo Center and Carroll Convention Center, home of Paducah, Kentucky's QuiltWeek events.

The mural is the second of the Quilt City USA series presented by Paducah Quilt Murals, Inc. It depicts the quilt "...AND OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE!" created by Melinda Bula from El Dorado Hills, California. The mural was painted by Stefanie Graves of Cowango Studios in Paducah.

"This is such a honor," said world-renowned quilt artist and instructor Melinda Bula. "Ten years ago, I was desperate to make a quilt that would help me through the fear of my son becoming a United States Marine in a time of war. The fear was overwhelming, knowing my only

child could go into battle, so I made a quilt to cope with that fear. Over every piece of fabric I cut and every thread I stitched, I prayed that my son would be safe...Now this quilt is in the National Quilt Museum and painted on the wall of a city I truly love, Paducah. I'm so grateful."

The talented mural painter, Stefanie Graves, commented, *"It makes me think of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War...and now COVID. Again there is a deep divide in the country, but like the title suggests, it's [the flag] still there. The flag in the quilt is under duress. It represents the battles we had in the past and says that we can rise above them. A patriot isn't without struggle, but because of these struggles, we appreciate the freedom that we have today. It's an important time to gather at the flag."*

Melinda designed her quilt to look like a painting. Stefanie's task was to paint the mural to look like a quilt. As is the case with most quilts, every color change is another piece of fabric. However, Melinda also used a sophisticated process known as thread painting to blend the colors. Stefanie invested more than 720 hours recreating this intricate



Stefanie working on the mural

quilting style using paint to replicate the fabric, stitches, and thread.

Although the unveiling of the mural on Veterans Day 2020 was restricted by social distancing guidelines, the mural is now available for public viewing at any time alongside the first mural which represents the quilt CORONA II: SOLAR ECLIPSE, by Caryl Bryer Fallert Gentry.



Paducah Quilt Murals Inc is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization created for the Quilt City USA® Murals Project. The mission of Quilt City USA® Murals is to educate both locals and visitors on the relevance and rich history of quilting. For more information see Paducahquiltmurals.org.