

## 2015 Guild Challenge Lovely as a Tree

*'Trees'*  
by J. Kilmer, 1913  
(excerpt)

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree*

...  
*A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray*

...  
*[Quilts]\* are made by fools like me  
But only God can make a tree*

Trees have long been a source of inspiration for poets and artists, from the tiny glimmer of hope signified by a mere sprout in the ground to the resilient, mighty oak standing alone after a storm. Trees not only grow with us, but can often stay standing long after we become nothing but a memory etched into their bark. One person can look at a tree and see strength, while another sees vulnerability. One sees mourning, another sees joy. What do you see in a tree? How do trees or a particular tree inspire you? Your challenge is to create a quilt that portrays a tree and evokes a quality about it that touches you.

### Details:

1. You may use any techniques you wish -- traditional piecing, foundation piecing, appliqué of any kind, collage, paint, embellishment, etc. I encourage you to try something new, even in a small way.
2. It must be apparent that a tree is represented, but you have a great deal of latitude-- you may portray it realistically or in a stylized way, and you may represent a whole tree or focus on part of one. However, an acorn or leaf alone is not quite enough.
3. Your tree may be in a context, or it may stand alone on a background. If your choice is significant, you may wish to tell us why.
4. Tell us about the inspiration or story behind your tree quilt; the quality, characteristic or feeling it evokes for you; and what technique you tried, if any, for the first time. Include a quote about trees from a poem or story you find, or write a verse of your own.
5. Size range: Minimum 30" wide x 30" long, Maximum 45"x50", any shape. Please include a 4-inch hanging sleeve.
6. Finished quilts are due for presentation at the **June** meeting.

I hope this challenge inspires you to experience nature in a uniquely intentional way, and that you have a lot of fun making something special to share with us! We eagerly anticipate your creations! Feel free to contact Heidi Dewey if you have any questions. [virginiagardengal@gmail.com](mailto:virginiagardengal@gmail.com) or 922-7780 (mobile/text).

(\*The original says "Poems" )