

Meredith Kimball:

Making quilts requires bodily skills and quilts are used to comfort, warm, and please bodies. Vision, touch, and manual skills among other physical processes are involved in making and using quilts. I plan to keep a journal about the physical experiences of making quilts, read what other women have written, and invite other quilters to join in this discussion. Possible topics include: how quilting links with different life stages, e.g., working life, parenting; how the physical changes of age influence the way we make quilts; what parts of the process are most sensual; how preferences for design, piecing, hand quilting, machine quilting, etc. develop and change over time; and how quilts connect us with others. Using quilters' experiences, a fabric construction or constructions will be the main result of the project. Depending on who is involved and their interests, this might be a quilt with individual blocks made by each participant representing some aspect of the body and quilting. Alternatively, it might be a series of smaller individual fabric projects. Each participant would also write a short description of their contribution. I might also write a longer paper exploring links between the quilters' experiences and theories of embodiment.