

Aquilina Smareglia

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I was born in Italy and lived in several other countries. In India (New Delhi), with my mother, I visited the Mega-Bazaars, brimming with the incredible scents of the spices and Indian food, and mountains of hand-craft and beautiful fabrics. I was 9 years old and I started to love colors and the magic of the Sari and cotton textiles.

Later, in Guatemala, I could visit stunning markets of handcrafts and hand woven and handmade embroideries and fabrics (like Chichicastenango, which are colorfully embroidered Guatemalan textiles). For over 25 years, I was a naif painter and displayed my paintings in parts of Europe, Mexico and the United States.

I then switched to fabrics. The materials I use are Bolivian ponchos, Argentinian hand-woven textiles, cotton from Africa and from other countries, embellished with antique hand made, colorful embroideries from Hungary and Transylvania (today Romania). I also use Scapulars from Mexico and Guatemala and various Catholic medals (to give love and protection).

I make cats and tote bags and my stitches are not accurate and far from perfection. Maybe a paw is shorter than the others or a ear bigger. I just want to show that my work is handcrafted and not a product coming out of a factory.

