

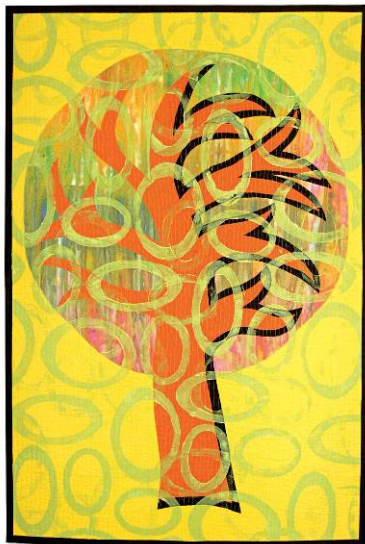


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FOUR QUILTERS TAKE PRIZES IN 2ND ANNUAL OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD

ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS, May 16, 2008—Naomi S. Adams of Round Rock, Texas, won the Grand Prize in the Second Annual *OLFA® Young Designers Okada Award* sponsored by OLFA North America, marketer and distributor of OLFA quilting, crafting and cutting tools and accessories. The contest was conducted under the auspices of the American Quilter's Society and the winners were announced at its show April 2008.



Naomi Adams received a \$5,000 prize for her bright contemporary design, *One Tree Quilt* (at left), an original interpretation of a color-infused tree undergoing the seasonal changes from summer to fall. The large machine-quilted creation—42" x 64"—features appliqué and paint.

The First Place prize of \$1,500 went to Susan Webster, 29, of Apple Valley, Minnesota, for *Encompassing Orange* (at right), a richly-colored 54" square traditional quilt featuring a medallion pattern adored in red, blues and orange. (This is the second OLFA win for Susan Webster who last year received the Second Place prize in the 2007 OLFA Young Designers Okada Award. Her winning entry then was the 74.5" x 92" *Pea-Lime & Paisley*.)



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2008 OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD—2

The 2008 Second Place prize of \$1,000 went to Gina Perkes, 33, of Payson,



Arizona, for her whimsical, lovingly executed original design, *Stars of the Sea* (at left). The long-arm quilt, 50" x 70", was crafted for the artist's mother and exhibits her love of the sea and her memories of snorkeling in Hawaii waters.

Ms. Perkes was the Grand Prize winner in the 2007 OLFA Young Designers Okada Award. Her winning quilt then was the 65" square *Complementary*.

The Third Place prize of \$500 went Heidi K. Meyer, of Richland Center, Wisconsin, for her immense, 82" x 96"

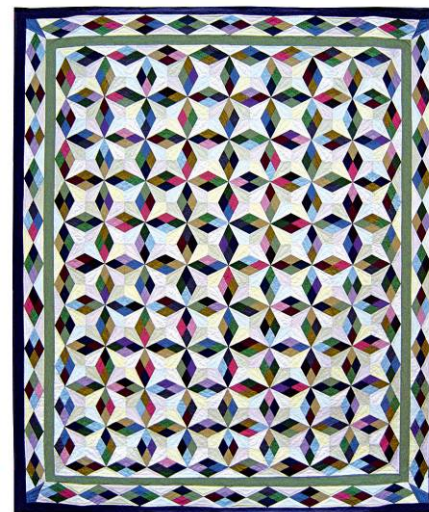
creation, *Rachel's Quilt* (at right), a traditional design adapted from the cover of the *Arkansas Traveler*, a novel by Earlene Fowler.

The OLFA Young Designers Okada Award competition was established in 2006 to encourage next-generation quilters and opened to competitors between the ages of 18 and 35.

Designers are invited to create a traditional or original quilt, using any quilt-making technique, in a unique interpretation. Finished quilts must be a minimum of 40 inches in width and length.

The OLFA contest is named for Yoshio Okada (1931-1990), the founder of OLFA and the inventor of, among other innovations, the rotary cutter, introduced in 1979, which revolutionized the quilting and craft industries.

Winners are selected by a three-member American Quilter's Society panel of award-winning quilters and quilting authors. The 2008 winners were announced in April at the 24th Annual AQS Quilt Show & Contest in Paducah, Kentucky.



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2008 OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD—3

OLFA is sponsoring a *Third Annual Young Designers Okada Award* competition, again under the auspices of the American Quilter's Society. The requirements for the 2009 contest and the four prizes are the same as in prior years: a grand prize of \$5,000, and first-, second- and third-place prizes worth \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Quilts must have been completed between January 1, 2007 and January 1, 2009, and be in excellent condition. The entry fee for AQS members is \$10. The non-member fee is \$30.

The 2009 winners will be announced at the 25th Annual AQS Quilt Show & Contest in April 2009.

OLFA Young Designers Okada Award rules and downloadable entry forms will be available in the near future at www.olfa.com and www.AmericanQuilter.com.

For more information on OLFA-North America, visit www.olfa.com.

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