

## Rebekka Seigel

*“I make art because I have to. That’s why anyone makes art, because you have to. My quilts were never made traditionally for beds. They were artistic expressions. Artists have a freedom to express themselves and the drive to do it.”*

Rebekka Seigel is a textile artist originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. She lives in Owen County, Kentucky. She sees herself as “a link in the chain that connects us.” Her grandmother was a quilter, and her daughter is an artist. Rebekka makes art quilts. She carries on the skills she learned from her grandmother. She passed on her passion for art to her daughter. Rebekka combines craftsmanship with her unique vision to create quilts that tell stories. She made a series of quilts called *Women’s Work* to honor women who were leaders. The first quilt in that series honored Phyllis George, then First Lady of Kentucky. George had a huge impact on Kentucky’s craft economy. Another series, this one of yo-yo quilts, is called *The Real Cost of War*. This series memorializes all the young men and women who made sacrifices in the line of duty. Rebekka’s work has been included in exhibitions around the country.

She has won awards in the American Quilt Society’s annual competition. Her quilts are part of the permanent exhibit of the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. For decades she shared her love of quilting and art with school children across the Commonwealth. She worked as an artist-in-residence for the Kentucky Arts Council. She even traveled to Northern Ireland in 1995 as an artist-in-residence. She enjoyed teaching children to sew and be creative.

*This quilt is called “The Class of 2002.” It is from her series “The Real Cost of War.” What do the visual images communicate?*

