**Marie Samuel**

“More Water Under Monet’s Garden Bridge”

The work I chose to submit to ‘Women’s Voices...a collective’ is from a traveling series that has been shown at SIC, John A Logan College and Giant City Visitor Center as well as Little Egypt Art Association in Marion. The series -Inspired by Art and Nature- is my attempt to pay tribute to several of the artists who have inspired me such as Van Gogh, Renoir, Monet, O’Keefe and Faith Ringgold.

Monet’s Garden Bridge with sheer overlays and hand pieced panels has been referred to by friends as a memorable work in this series. The title I chose “More Water Under Monet’s Garden Bridge” is to refer both to this inspirational work and to its power to inspire despite the passage of time.

Many of the impressionists and artists of all ages have been inspired by nature’s beauty. This eco-artist also hopes to bring attention in my work to our need to protect nature’s resources of clean air, earth and water. Poetry is also a means for me to share my environmental concerns, and text is found in many of my art quilts.

After graduating from SIU in 1995 with an MFA in painting and drawing, I continued to do plein air watercolors and mixed media collages.

For my thesis exhibit I used old quilts for a canvas to draw and sew images on. My goal of wanting to learn how to quilt had to wait until I retired in 2001 from teaching art in Carterville schools. Fabric collage has since become a technique for making my art quilts with an eco-arts focus. Using various materials and even painting or drawing on fabrics and whole cloth panels is a current interest in several recent art quilt series.