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Kathleen Loomis Biography

Kathleen Loomis was trained as a journalist and spent her career as a newspaper journalist and corporate writer/editor. Since her retirement in 2000, she has worked full-time as a fiber artist in Louisville, Kentucky. Loomis learned to sew at her grandmothers' knees and taught herself to make quilts while still in high school. After many years of seeing (and making) quilts as functional and decorative, "I had an epiphany – I realized one day that quilts could be art!" Loomis' quilts generally use the techniques and format of traditional quilts, but in recent years her work has been largely political, focusing on the war in Iraq as well as other dangers, disappointments and failures of modern society. Her large quilt *Memorial Day* contains 4,083 tiny American flags, one for each of the U.S. military dead in Iraq as of Memorial Day 2008. It is traveling in the prestigious exhibit *Quilt National '09* and won the Quilts Japan Prize, which sent Loomis to teach in Japan.