The Mayo Clinic Arizona 20th Anniversary Quilt

The Mayo Clinic Arizona 20th Anniversary Quilt was supported by the Mayo Clinic Center for Humanities in Medicine, which works to integrate the arts, history, and ethics in the medical environment, serving patients, physicians, families, caregivers and communities. Dr Caswell shared the quilt’s story in Rochester on July 28, 2008.

Some details of interest that she shared include: during the work on the quilt an owl nested on top of a column of the cafeteria patio at Mayo Clinic Hospital and raised a family. The quilt design team incorporated this in the quilt and an owlet can be seen in the tree in the right hand panel of the quilt.

The detail included in the path and bench in the center panel capture the state of the real trails prevalent on the campus of Mayo Clinic Arizona.

During the work on the quilt, a portion of one of the panels accidentally picked up a stain that in the end did not detract from the final product and to viewers is not noticeable in any way, but adds to the overall color scheme.

The leaves of the tree on the right-hand panel stretch a little beyond the border of the quilt adding an additional life-like feel to the already detailed flora and fauna.

Dr Caswell states “I consider my work painting and creating texture with fabric and thread. I would like viewers to notice the design and color from across the room and be drawn closer to marvel at the details. I love all the processes of quilting including dying, and painting fabrics, designing, hand-applique, precision piecing, intricate machine quilting and embellishing.”


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