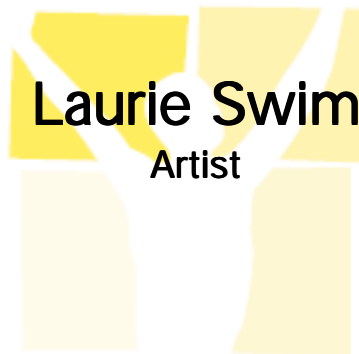


Biography



Laurie Swim, an internationally renowned visual artist, instructor, and author of two books, has worked extensively with communities in collaborative, large-scale, visual art projects. Her latest endeavor is the 9' x 18' fabric mural, *LifeQuilt: The Young Workers Memorial*.

Her first book, *The Joy of Quilting with an Introduction by Alex Colville* was published in 1985 by Viking Canada. The book, in subsequent hardcover and paperback editions, was also published in the U.S. and Britain and the Commonwealth. She wrote *Quilting* in 1991, another book published in various editions, in many countries.

Laurie worked with volunteers on her first large-scale community arts project in 1995, to create *Pulling Together*, a 9' x 15' quilted fabric mural wall hanging that commemorates the labourers who built the historic Rideau Canal from 1826-1832.

In 1999, Laurie learned of a tunneling incident in Toronto in 1960 in which five young Italian immigrants died and how this changed safety regulations in Ontario. Realizing there was little awareness of the incident, she began the research that would allow her to envision and actualize a memorial to the five men killed in the accident. Forming a partnership with COSTI Immigrant Services enabled Laurie and 30 community volunteers to make *Breaking Ground — The Hogs Hollow Disaster, 1960*, a 7' x 19' fabric mural which will be installed in the York Mills subway station, during 2002.

When Laurie moved to Toronto in 1978 from Nova Scotia, she established herself as a commissioned artist, specializing in large-scale site-specific works, many still on display throughout Toronto and other Canadian cities. Her clients include the Bank of Nova Scotia, IMAX-OMNIMAX Corp. and the Hudson Bay Company, as well as individual collectors. Her work graces the permanent public collections of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the City of Toronto.

Laurie returned home to Lockeport, N.S. for the summer of 2000 to create an art quilt, *Lost at Sea*, to commemorate 17 fishermen from that community, who perished in 1961. This Canadian Millennium Partnership art project is on permanent display at the Crescent Beach Centre in Lockeport.

Laurie Swim, 53, lives in Toronto with her husband and 16-year-old son.

