

My Poppy Quilt Story 11:00 11.11.1918

During 1970 while I lived in Sydney, Australia we visited Canberra the capital of the country, situated in a specially formed state, ACT – Australian Capital Territory- between New South Wales and Victoria. During April of that year Australia celebrated their Bi-Centenary with a lot of replica sailing ships with tall masts that visited Sydney harbour for the re-enactment of Capt James Cook's landing in 1770. The Queen visited for the festivities and Sydney buildings were decorated in splendid fashion for the occasion. I was very impressed with how proud the Aussies were of their nation and what they have achieved in 200 years after they started out as a penal colony. During November we visited Canberra for ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Armed Corps) Day. We visited the South African Embassy, a Cape Dutch building with a bed of orange flowers around the outside wall but we really wanted to see the War Memorial and the War Museum. I was greatly moved by the realistic paintings of the agonising circumstances the soldiers had to face during World War 1. When revisiting Canberra in 2009 The Wall of Remembrance that had been erected since, touched me deeply...rows and rows of black granite walls with the names of all Australians who died in all the wars, graced by a single red poppy next to it when family or friends visit to honour them.

The Poppy quilt developed in my sub conscious and moved to the conscious creative mind begging to be made. All appliqué was done by hand, which took me a few years, and it had to be on black to symbolise Death and Destruction. Then the search for the right border to frame the poppies, began. I bought 5 other pieces of material which was just NOT right before I found the right one. I worked with 10 different greens (symbolising new growth) and 30 shades of red (symbolising all the blood spilt) to ensure that the petals do not look the same or appear flat. There are 20 big flowers with 8 petals each, 38 small with 4 petals each, 16 medium with 6 petals each, 52 buds and 52 leaves. I used black cotton batting and the back is also black. I quilted with great care, cross hatching the inner part and then repeating the poppy design on the border. This quilt has taken on a life of its own and is making a statement far greater than I could foresee.

11:00 11.11.2018 MAY WE NEVER FORGET

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