



From choosing the fabrics to designing and making the blocks, my attention is focused solely on each piece. My husband and sons seem to know that this is different from my other projects, and it touches me that they ask questions about it. It has made an impact on them, too.

– *Caroline Rudisill (USA)*

I selected old lace and fabrics to use. Stitch after stitch, I had the impression of being close to these people. It was a sensitive and unique experience.

– *Cecile Milhau (France)*

# The 70273 PROJECT **XX**

An Invitation to Commemorate, Celebrate, Educate

By Jeanne Hewell-Chambers

➔ The purpose of The 70273 Project is threefold: commemorate those 70,273 people who were so casually and callously murdered; celebrate and raise awareness of those with special needs who live among us today; and educate all who will listen so that an atrocity like this never happens again. The finished quilts will be completed in all different sizes - something to fit any and every venue where they will be exhibited.



*The perfect gift.  
The perfect party.  
The perfect tree.*

We hear a lot about being perfect around this time of the year, but you don't have to be perfect to be wonderful. . .

Between January 1940 and August 1941 through a program called Aktion T4, German Nazis murdered 70,273 physically and mentally disabled people. Assessing physicians never met the person they were evaluating, basing their decisions solely on medical records. When two physicians placed a red X on the bottom of the form, the person was murdered.

People from around the world are making 70,273 quilt blocks to commemorate each person murdered because they weren't deemed perfect. Guidelines are few and simple:

- blocks must be one of three sizes (3.5" x 6.5" or 6.5" x 9.5" or 9.5" x 12.5")
- a white base to represent the paper of the medical records
- two red X's on the white base to represent the death sentence
- a signed Provenance Form from each maker giving me permission to use the blocks.



# Happy Holidays

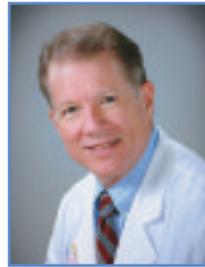
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There's nothing more relaxing after a stressful day at work, than sitting at the treadle making perfectly imperfect crosses out of the smallest scraps knowing that another precious individual has been duly represented by your creation.

**– Gisele Therezien (Channel Islands, UK)**

I launched The 70273 Project on Valentine's Day 2016, and blocks began coming in right away, each as unique and individual as the person they represent, each Maker with her own unique reasons for making the blocks.

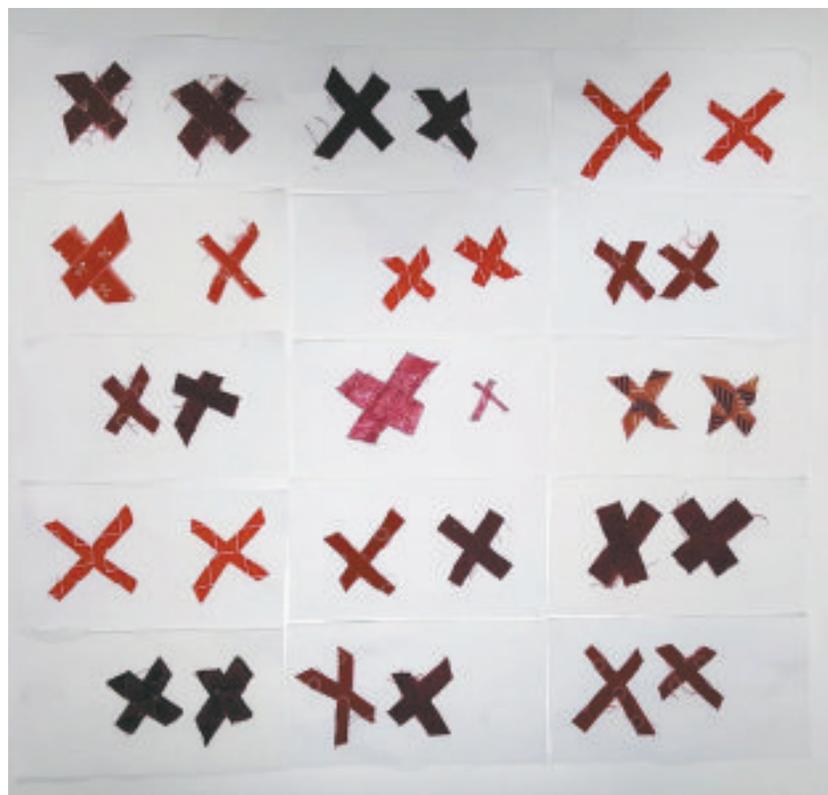
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The goal is to have all 70,273 blocks in hand by the end of October 2017. The German Nazis spent 20 months murdering these people, so we'll spend 20 months



My friend Trish, who has intellectual disabilities, helped by telling me how big the two red crosses smile. When I first started stitching, I was angry, but Trish turns my anger into love.

**– Glenda Williams (Australia)**



I taught kids who learned differently. This project touched my heart as I thought of how empty the lives of all those families would be without their child or children that would have fallen under the double red X. They are living proof that different isn't bad but delightful.

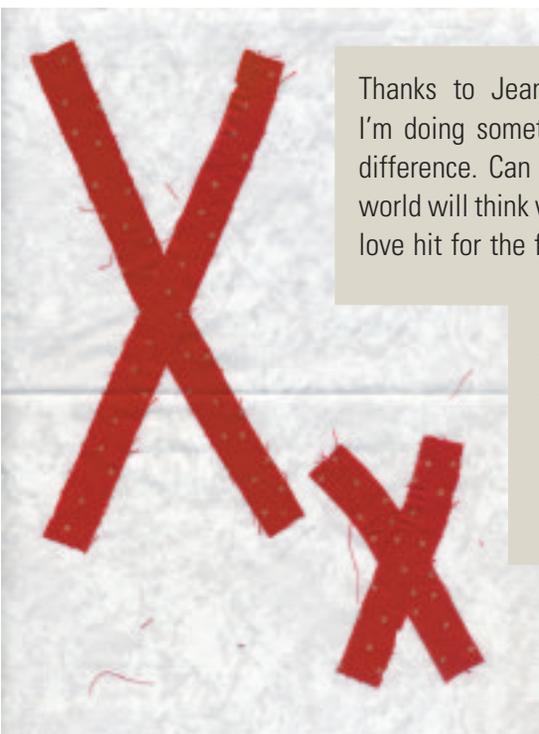
**– Denniele Bohannen (USA)**

commemorating them because it shouldn't take longer to love than it takes to hate.

You need no special skills to participate in The 70273 Project, only a kind, compassionate heart. This is a project where we check perfection at the door and allow ourselves the freedom to just create without judgment or stress. Through The 70273 Project, we commemorate people who were perfectly imperfect, so to even try to make The Perfect Block would be more of a travesty than a tribute.

I made these blocks from Mom's linens. She fought depression for much of her life and would be pleased where these are headed.

**– Debra Baker Steinmann (USA)**



Thanks to Jeanne Hewell-Chambers, I'm doing something that can make a difference. Can you imagine what the world will think when so many works of love hit for the first time? I see people clambering to get there or standing in line in front of the buildings they are displayed in.

**– Carolyn Katzoff (USA)**



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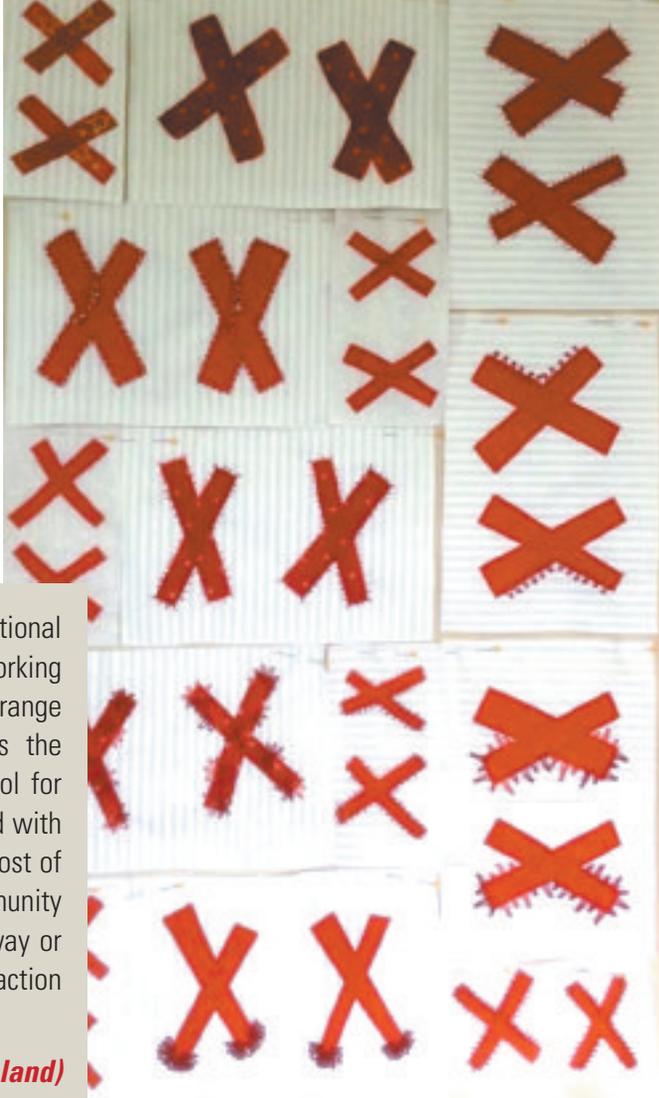
Perhaps you'd like to give a perfectly imperfect gift this year and commemorate some perfectly imperfect people you'll never know. Families, classes, and organizations are making blocks together and creating their own quilts. Individuals are making blocks and dedicating them to specific people they know and love. Grandmothers are making blocks with their grandchildren. Individuals, families, and businesses are making muchly needed and muchly appreciated financial donations to The 70273 Project, Inc. (a non-profit corporation). There are many ways to participate in The 70273 Project, each a gift to yourself, to others, to the memory of these 70273 souls, and to the world at large. I hope you'll find or place some red and white fabric under your perfectly imperfect tree this year and join in.

I got involved with the project because of my sister, Lucrecia. She had meningitis when she was 15 days old and ended with brain damage, she would have had two red Xs. She might not be a "productive member of society" but she fills our lives with joy every day and she has so much to teach us!

**– Maria Conway (Argentina)**

My mother worked as an occupational therapist for portions of her working life with people with a wide range of disabilities. My husband was the principal of a special needs school for a number of years and has worked with students with special needs for most of his life. Suffice to say it's a community we've had a bit to do with one way or another, hence my immediate attraction to this wonderful project.

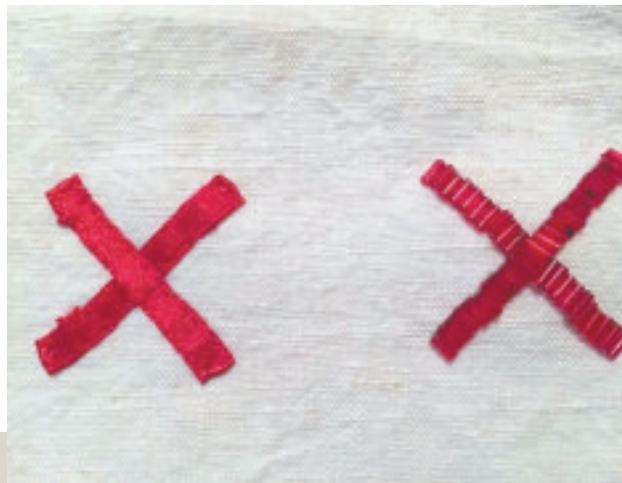
**– Phillips Doyle (New Zealand)**



My daughter, Tula, has a congenital condition called Conradi Hünemann Syndrome which has caused her to develop severe scoliosis of the spine. The condition is fierce. I create my blocks using old textiles including ancient clothing which has itself been torn and mended; embroidered linens that someone long ago created with their hands: scraps of history both new and old. There is a piece of one of the vests Tula wears beneath her cast. For me, these white pieces represent an individual's life: their faults and their beauty. They become no longer flat fabric compositions but a song to a life lost.

**– Chloe Grice (France)**





I have been saving this fabric in remembrance of my grandmother. I'm sure wherever she is, she's happy to participate in The 70273 Project through me.

**– Corinne Micropoulos (France)**



For more information on the project, specific information on how to make blocks, and to make financial donations, visit [www.The70273Project.org](http://www.The70273Project.org).

*A Southern storyteller to the bone, Jeanne Hewell-Chambers often gives her big, fat, crazy ideas to some fictional woman to pursue . . . but this time Jeanne pushed up her own sleeves to live this idea into life, and that has proven a most wonderful (if imperfect, at times) decision.*

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