

## Wife-Husband Quilt-Making Team

Bonnie and George Brengelmann, now in their seventies, residents of Seattle, Washington, USA, have spent one or two months a year in Florence since 1989. Their friends know them as “the walkers” because they do not have a car, preferring to reach the cities of Tuscany and Umbria by train or bus and spend the day on foot to enjoy the art and architecture. Also they travel by bus to places like San Polo in Chianti to trek through the mountains on the trails maintained by the C.A.I. Between expeditions, they spend their days at a villa on Sta. Maria a Montici in a quiet



flat looking out onto an orchard. On these “rest” days, physiologist George works on his scientific writing and artist Bonnie works on her “fabric constructions” inspired by frescoes and paintings. The 94 by 183 cm quilted construction above is based on a detail in one of the frescos by Giotto in San Francesco in Assisi.

Bonnie uses batik fabric to take advantage of their fresco-like shadings of color. She prepares the design and cuts the fabric pieces before leaving Seattle. The preliminary work also includes stitching along the openings and edge details such as those she is shown working on in the garden of their flat (below, right). When she visited our shop, we were surprised to learn that she has a technical assistant for this stitching, George.



With their sewing machine, he places closely spaced stitching along her lines traced on the cloth. Each of the window openings in the piece in Bonnie’s hand (right) was outlined in this way so that the top fabric could be cut and folded behind without frayed edges.

We were even more surprised to learn that they work as a team to make quilts to give away, 21 in the last three years.

