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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***FOUR WINNERS NAMED IN FIRST ANNUAL OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD***

ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS—Gina Perkes, 32, of Payson, Arizona, was chosen Grand Prize winner in the First Annual OLFA® Young Designers Okada Award program sponsored by OLFA North America, marketer and distributor of OLFA quilting, crafting and cutting tools and accessories.



Ms. Perkes, who received the \$5,000 prize, won for her quilt *Complementary* (at left), an original 65” square design, featuring two graceful swans appliquéd and long-arm quilted in blue, orange and white against a black ground. Crystals and colorful quilted flowers highlighted the workmanship in the main medallion.

Among the other winners were:

First Place went to Charla Gee, 25, of Littleton, Colorado, for *Twilight Dance* (at right), a 51” x 64” original Art-style quilt featuring sweeping curves and pieced elements reminiscent of a mariner’s compass. The colors evoked the sea with varying shades of blue, green, lavender and shots of pink. She received the \$1,500 prize.



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## OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD—2



The second place prize went to Susan Webster, 28, of Apple Valley, Minnesota, for *Fantastical Deviations* (at left), an original 63” square medallion quilt design in shades of pink and blue with trapunto work. She received a \$1,000 prize.

The third place prize went to Jennifer Shackelford Perdue, 35, of Bucyrus, Ohio, for her *Pea-Lime & Paisley* (below), a 74.5” x 92” whole cloth lime-green quilt, long-arm quilted with a complex pattern using computer-assisted stitch software. She receives a \$500 prize.

The competition, conducted under the auspices of the American Quilter’s Society (AQS), was established in 2006 to encourage next-generation quilters and was open to competitors between the ages of 18 and 35.

Designers were invited to create a traditional or original quilt, using any quilt-making technique, in a unique interpretation. Finished quilts had to be a minimum of 40 inches or more in width and in length.

The OLFA contest is named for Yoshio Okada (1931-1990), the founder of OLFA and the inventor, among other innovations, of the rotary cutter, introduced in 1979, which revolutionized the quilting and craft industries.

Winners were selected by a three-member AQS panel of award-winning quilters and quilting authors. They were honored by Hiroshi Okada, president of OLFA Corp., and brother of the late founder, Yoshio Okada, before the recent 23rd Annual AQS Quilt Show & Contest in Paducah, Kentucky.



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### *OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD—3*

OLFA will be sponsoring a *Second Annual Young Designers Okada Award* competition, again under the auspices of the American Quilter's Society.

The competition, which is designed to encourage a new generation of quilters, is open to competitors ages 18 to 35. Submissions may be traditional or original quilts, using any quilt-making technique, and in a unique interpretation. Finished quilts must be a minimum 40 inches or more in width and in length.

Four prizes will be awarded: a grand prize of \$5,000, and first-, second- and third-place prizes worth \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Quilts must have been finished between Jan. 1, 2006 and Jan. 1, 2008 and in excellent condition. The entry fee for AQS members is \$5. The non-member fee is \$25.

Download *OLFA Young Designers Okada Award* rules and [2008 Contest Entry Form](#) available online at [www.olfacom.com](http://www.olfacom.com) and the AQS website, [www.AmericanQuilter.com](http://www.AmericanQuilter.com).

For more information on OLFA-North America, visit [www.olfacom.com](http://www.olfacom.com).

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