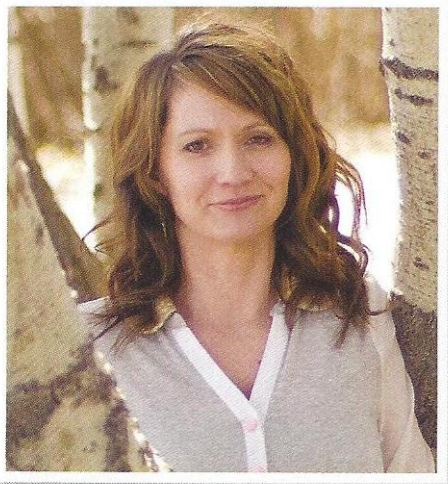


Amy Hamberlin



From her first visit to a quilt store, Amy Hamberlin knew that she had found something special. Within a week she had finished her first project and since then, she hasn't stopped.

By Hayley Penrose

When Amy Hamberlin stumbled upon her first quilt shop in 2005 it took her breath away. "I walked away with my first project ever ('Heart Crazy' by Buggy Barn) and was pretty excited to get started," she remembers.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect as she and her husband were going home for the holidays and would be seeing her mother-in-law who happened to be a quilter. Armed with her kit, Amy showed her the stack and whack project. "She looked at me like 'I don't know what this is.' So I asked her if she could show me what a ¼in seam was and the rest is history" Amy recalls.

'Heart Crazy' was finished within the week, and from that moment Amy was hooked. "It really was love at first sight. I loved the fact that I was in control of patterns, fabric and placement. I got a taste of the creative bug and I haven't

been able to stop," she says.

A year later, with only three projects under her belt and not much experience, Amy opened a quilt shop with her husband in their hometown of Rigby, Idaho in the United States. "This is when I began to learn the fundamentals of quilting," she explains. Learning on the job, Amy's quilt shop soon attracted the attention of people from all over, as well as within her town of 3000.

Before long, Amy had started designing small projects for her store which were flying off the shelves. She decided to take the next step into the design world and that is when Kati Cupcake Pattern Co was born.

The online site has a wide variety of Amy's patterns for bags, clothing and quilts. There are lots of unique designs from pocketed tote bags right through to her book *Baby, It's You!* As well as creating patterns, Amy also designs for

Henry Glass Co. Her '#Laugh Love' quilt pattern and fabrics are bright and fun, much like Amy herself.

Amy named her company after her mother, Kati, who was a very crafty woman. "My mother fostered creativity all through my childhood. She worked creatively with different mediums and always made beautiful things out of nothing," she says. Kati decorated



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weddings and receptions and enjoyed tole painting with her sister and friends. Not to be forgotten, Amy's father was also artistic and built beautiful log homes.

Having grown up around visual design, Amy often takes inspiration from her day-to-day life. "I don't think that I'm always cognitively aware of inspirations at every occurrence, but I've sort of taken something from it and tucked it away," she says. "Most of the time, what I'm doing and what my family is doing, my needs, wants and aspirations affect the creative process."

One thing that she has found is you can't force the process; it will come to you in its own time. A trip to Charleston, South Carolina in the United States proved a productive visit. "I remember walking down the streets packed with beautiful architecture, and history that somehow came alive in a

way for me. Charleston is unlike any other city I've ever been in," Amy reminisces.

A typical day for busy mum Amy is non-stop from the moment she wakes up at 6:30am. Working from home, she breaks up the work day with household tasks like laundry and grocery shopping. While her children are at school, Amy will take time to work in her studio and take care of business emails that come in. Once they are home it's time to drive them to practices and help them with their homework before dinner. After a little bit of time to wind down, it's time for bed before doing it all again the next day. Her children are a huge part of her life, and Amy loves spending time with them. "I enjoy watching my children grow in whatever it is they decide to dedicate themselves to and the process of achieving success," she says.

In her free time, Amy likes to travel and do a little gardening. "I'm a flower potter. I love pots and flowers!" she exclaims. Ever the hard worker, there is always some designing or creating to be done as well. "I am always working on a project – or three!" she smiles.



For more information on Amy Hamberlin and her work, visit www.katicupcake.com

