



## My Pathway to the Anne Tuck Prize

by Jo Rycroft

*Park Run* (left) started life during a workshop named 'Waves and Shapes', hosted by the very fabulous Chilean quilter Carolina Oneto, a master of colour, curves and transparency. Her methods of using tones and hues in overlapping shapes, create such incredible and surprising results of depth, dimension and perspective.

Despite its initial construction being of quite a mathematical, formulaic approach regarding colour blending, and trying to get those pieced curves on point (much un-picking!), the finished quilt top flowed from shape to shape with a gentle movement, despite the boldness of colour...but still did not feel finished. So there she stayed on my design wall, waiting for that spark.

Soon after, I travelled to France's most beautiful Alsace for the European Patchwork Meeting – a major annual event held every September in the Val d'Argent, the largest quilting and patchwork show in Europe, and bingo... just about as much inspiration as any soul could soak up! A true baptism of fire for any textile enthusiast, and just the prettiest of places. With so much to see and learn, it was impossible not to be led down every rabbit hole, and I couldn't wait to get started on everything!

My everyday life begins and ends with my dogs. Come rain or shine, light or dark, we are out. A quiet time of calm and thoughtful preparation with my only interruptions coming from nature and her elements. Much of my work has the light source as a consideration, and each season offers different eventualities. *Park Run's* transformation came about with the autumn colours filtering through the shedding trees, with sunlight dipping in and out, which I



tried to depict with the vertical striped panels.

The rings used hand dyed printed cotton to offer the dappled effect of a late sun. I did not want to use a patterned print cotton, or anything too uniform, as it felt too manufactured. I

appliquéd the rings carefully to try and interlock them, so that not one is directly in front of the other, but all joined.

The quilting inspiration came from a brilliant quilter from the Netherlands, Elfriede Grooten. This allowed me to pull together horizontally all the panels of the quilt with a series of differing patterns that continued from left to right.

Like so much of my work, I never know when it's going to be finished, and then it just is!

Just to be quite clear, I do not do park runs and I do not run with my dogs. The title *Park Run* came about because the interlocking rings reminded me of the Olympic rings!

To receive the Anne Tuck Prize, my first prize ever, was so, so pleasing and I am so very grateful. I understand her to have been a committed quilter, teacher and member of our Guild, and with enormous thanks to her, her memory, and her kind family with the legacy she left, I am thrilled to say I have booked myself on a short course at St Martins School of Art to study silkscreen printing. I have a huge passion for breakdown printing and all the unpredictability that brings, but am now looking to refine this a little and learn a new skill. I couldn't be more excited! Again, many thanks.

[jo@sewjo.co.uk](mailto:jo@sewjo.co.uk)  
[sewjo.co.uk](http://sewjo.co.uk) Instagram: [@sewjo100](https://www.instagram.com/sewjo100)



*Park Run* used hand dyed printed cotton (top right) and involved much un-picking (top left). Left: detail of *Park Run*