



just for fun

BY NANCY ARSENEAULT

Beauty Parlor de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos artwork often represents people's work and everyday activities.

Always on the lookout for a new concept to add to her Day of the Dead quilt series, Nancy Arsenault of Tucson, Arizona, realized one day that a bank of hairdryers in a beauty salon is a classically funny image. She imagined a traditional salon – black and white floor, Roman shade, lettering on the window, capes on the clientele.

"I try to add interest to the quilts by making them three dimensional so I took the risk and used unusual fabrics in this quilt – vinyl for the chairs, polyester for the capes, metallic mesh for the hairdryers," Arsenault said. The hairdresser is modeled after Arsenault's stylist, Roy, whose hairstyle is different each time she sees him.

"The foils on the gal in his chair were a must," she said.



Beauty Parlor de los Muertos, 76" D 59", 2011.

Arseneault wanted each woman to be unique. "I paid special attention to their faces and outfits," she said. "I gave one a gathered skirt with pom-pom trim and knew some people would wonder what was under it." To elicit giggles, Arseneault put a sign under the skirt that says, "Shame on you! What are you doing looking under here?"

Arseneault likes to slip animals into her quilts, hence the pampered poodle. Finally, QN's favorite part. "Since someone is always reading under the dryer, I had the opportunity to work in *Quilters Newsletter*, which I photocopied onto fabric," she said.

Beauty Parlor de los Muertos is a girls' day out. Can't you just imagine these friends doing lunch together when they're done at the salon? 

