

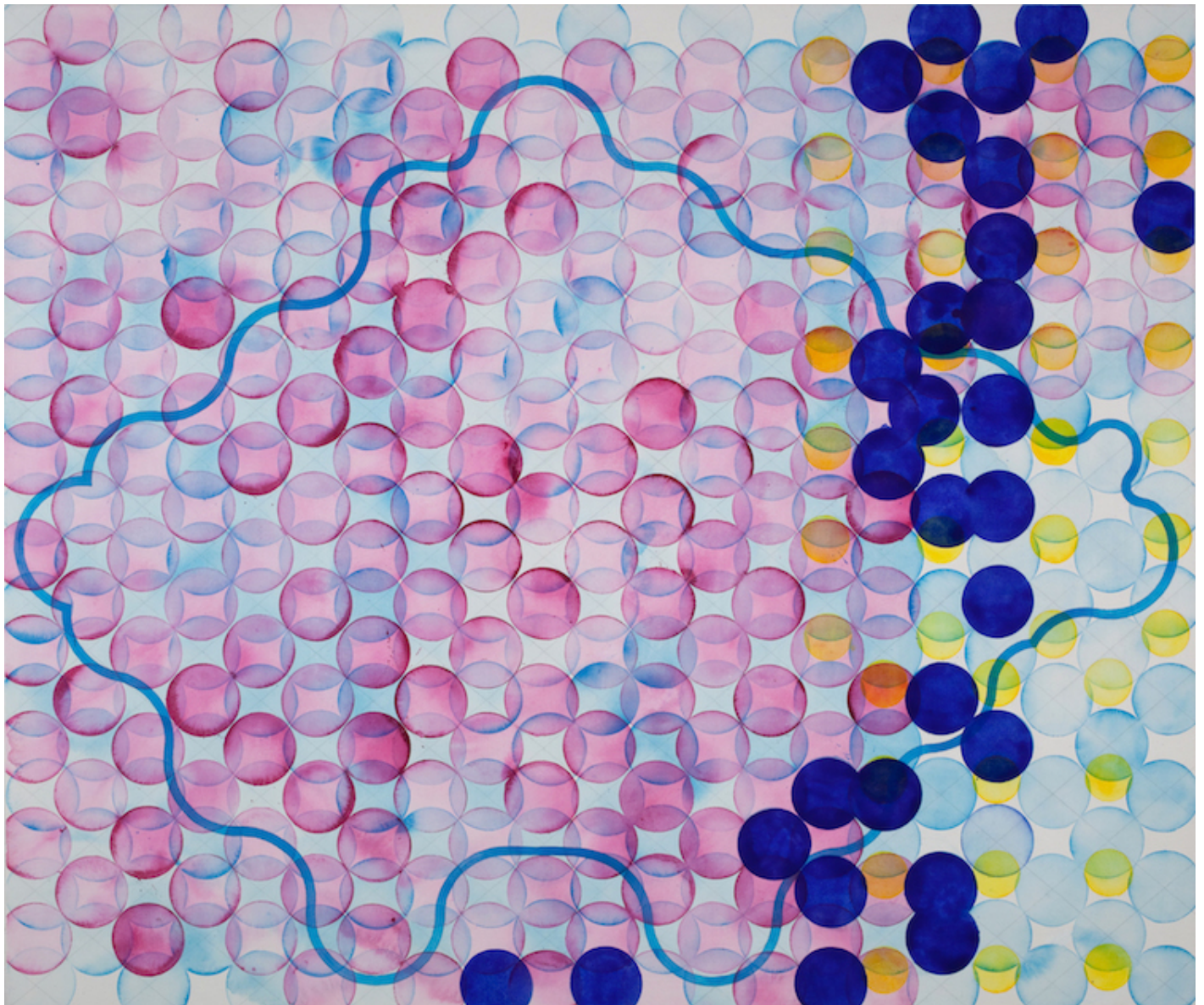
## [Crazy Quilt](#) [1]

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## Poetry by Madeleine Mysko



## Crazy Quilt

To keep from *crazy* then—from *cracked*,

## Crazy Quilt

Published on Talking Writing (<https://www.talkingwriting.com>)

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from *broken*—is this the work?  
To make something from the desires  
both to hold and to be held  
(as in *together*, as in *of a piece*)?

Think of *crazy quilt*:  
the hand holding the remnants,  
the hand stitching, piecing, making—  
out of thrift, perhaps, but also,  
it seems to me now, out of love.

*Crazy quilt*: gesture that yearns  
in the making, that works toward  
warmth, a comforter to stuff with  
straw or, better, with eider down to  
lay upon the child asleep in the loft beneath  
the low roof, while beyond the dormer window  
snow has blanketed the fields and,  
along the fence, the beds of lilies.

You know the fabric by heart—patterned  
calico, summer flowers in yellow and pink  
and lavender, scarlet leaves, snowflakes  
against indigo blue, tiny stars  
between the patchwork seams.

To keep from crazy then: poetry  
as sturdy thread, stitching forward and  
back, securing itself, somehow.

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## Art Information

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Madeleine Mysko is the author of two novels, *Bringing Vincent Home* and *Stone Harbor Bound*, and a poetry collection, *Crucial Blue* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2019). With three other Maryland poets,

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she is also the author of *In the Margins: A Conversation in Poetry*. She is a recipient of individual artist awards in both poetry and fiction from the State of Maryland. Presently she serves as coordinating editor of the "Reflections" column for *American Journal of Nursing*, and teaches writing part-time at Goucher College.

**Source URL:** <https://www.talkingwriting.com/crazy-quilt>

### Links:

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- [4] <https://www.talkingwriting.com/taxonomy/term/2070>
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