Escape to Stacy Iest Hsu's

Jungle Paradise

When Stacy Iest Hsu designed Jungle Paradise she wasn't imagining eluding a pandemic. "But it really does feel like an escape," she says of the line inspired by her honeymoon trip 17 years ago to Belize and Guatemala. "The colors make me so happy!"

She was thinking, however, about creating opportunities for kids to sew by themselves and with their moms, dads, grandparents, and others. And that turns out to be a good thing during a pandemic...or anytime.



STACY IEST HSU

"Learning to create something, through cooking or woodworking or sewing or playing music gets kids off screens, helps them implement the things they learn in school, and is beneficial all around," says Stacy.

Stacy's interest in helping kids learn to sew is a thread that's run through her more than 20 collections for Moda. Her designs are often inspired by the children's books she loved reading to her three children, two of whom are now teenagers. "It was my favorite time of day," says Stacy. "No one was fighting, everyone was peaceful, sometimes they'd be working on projects but they were still listening." Designing fabric enables Stacy to tell and illustrate stories, as well as to give kids (and adults) the materials and skills to be creative.





Sewing to build skills... and for fun

As Stacy's gotten back into sewing—she did a lot of 4-H sewing as a child and teenager but stopped when she got busy with her young family—she was also reminded that it leads to a better understanding of math. "I'm a visual person and would rather freeform it, but with quilting you have to use rulers and math to make blocks fit," she says. "I never really understood math until I started sewing more."

Those math skills have come in handy, too, when she's writing and illustrating instructions for the cut-and-sew panels that accompany her lines. She strives to make the directions clear and understandable for newbies, but also include projects that are a little more challenging for experienced sewists. Jungle Paradise includes finger puppets and stuffed animals that can be sewn by beginners or as a quick gift for an adult to make. The cloth book with lift-up flaps is more challenging and provides a satisfying finished product.





Confidence and resilience

In helping her children to learn to sew, Stacy remembers her own experience of worrying that she couldn't do buttonholes or zippers without her mom's help. So, Stacy imparted basic sewing skills, gave them supplies, and then let them run with it. Her daughter now creates her own clothing from patterns she drafts herself. "She wore a button-down shirt the other day that she made using fabric from my mom," says Stacy, proudly. "She's not afraid to try and fail. She's totally my inspiration."

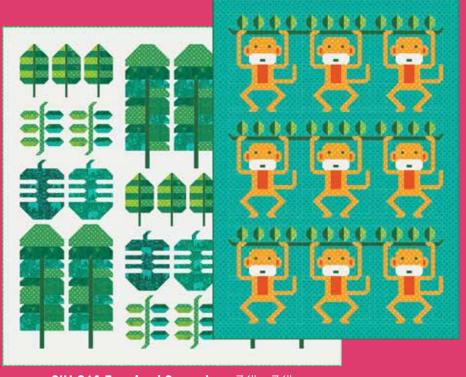
Stacy loves knowing her fabric lines help beginners build resilience and confidence through sewing, as well as gain skills that complement their school experiences. "I've heard kids going through the school system say 'I don't know why I'm learning this or that,'" she says. "Imagine if middle school kids would take a class on designing and making a quilt—they'd learn math and come out with a quilt!"

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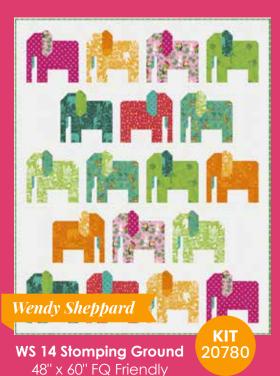








SIH 061 Tropical Sampler - 76" x 76"







The lush green jungles and almost-blindingly bright colors of the wildlife still resonate some seventeen years after my husband and I honeymooned in Belize and Guatemala. Even after all this time, the memories are still so vivid they inspired this Jungle Paradise collection.

Tropical birds, playful monkeys and wild jungle cats are just a few of the things you'll find alongside a few super-fun tree frogs. The bold colors are a dazzling palette for your next amazing project, whether it's a new quilt or one of the two cut-and-sew panels inspired by the jungle wildlife – a collection of animal stuffies and an interactive cloth book.

The motifs and colors are sure to put you in a Jungle Paradise state-of-mind.

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Jungle Paradise STACTIEST HSU

BOOK & STUFFED ANIMAL PANELS







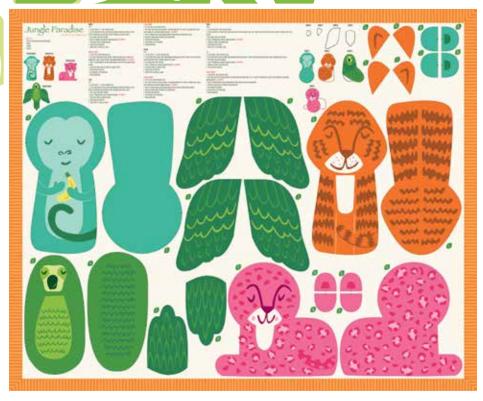






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20781 11 Panel measures approx. 36" x 44"



20780 11 Book Panel 36" x 60"



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