

# Natalia Manley

## Private Universe

Imagine yourself in an ancient land surrounded by cork trees, eucalyptus, olive groves and vast endless golden plains. The soil is a rich sun-baked red, the wild flowers pink and yellow, the dawn velvety deep blue as it welcomes a lilac sunrise, the sunsets pink and orange.

Little medieval white villages with flashes of sunbaked yellow and blue, perched on top of a hill, streets lined with orange trees and always the bells of a little white church ringing in the midday sun.

This is the Alentejo region of Portugal where I was born and spent large chunks of my childhood living with my grandparents. The traditions of the past are still handed down and so at an early age I was taught to sew by my grandmother.

We sat together at her ancient Singer by the light of an oil lamp, and as she sewed, I played with my precious scraps of fabric ribbon and lace.

When I wasn't in the Alentejo I would be with my parents just south of the river/Atlantic Ocean from Lisbon. Here the colours were quite different. The shimmering blues and greens of the Atlantic Ocean, the golden sands, the colourful fishing boats and the glorious fruits and flowers in the marketplace, a lot of them from the Madeira islands and Portuguese Africa.

All these influences have shaped my work and as I make each new piece I can't help but see it bathed in sunshine!

Private Universe is a collection of work that means a great deal to me. These are

### Whats coming in 2006 !

If you have enjoyed The Festival, make plans to visit other events arranged by Creative Exhibitions Ltd

#### In 2005

*The Knitting and Stitching Show*

Alexandra Palace, London 13th-16th Oct

RDS, Dublin 3rd-6th Nov

International Halls, Harrogate 24th-27th Nov

#### In 2006

*Stitch & Craft*

Olympia 2,  
London

23rd-26th March

*The Festival Of Quilts 2006*  
NEC, Birmingham

17th-20th  
August

where I "let myself go" and do what pleases me rather than a client.

Some like "Into the light" hold precious memories of a lost friend, some memories of my childhood, others express feelings and interests but mostly they are just my daydreams.

I hope you enjoy this small sample of my vast collection of quilts.

Welcome to my private universe.

Natalia Manley: **Private Universe - H27**

Top Image: Natalia Manley. Into the Light  
Bottom Image: Natalia Manley, Number 9

