

First Time

by Gaiyle J. Connolly

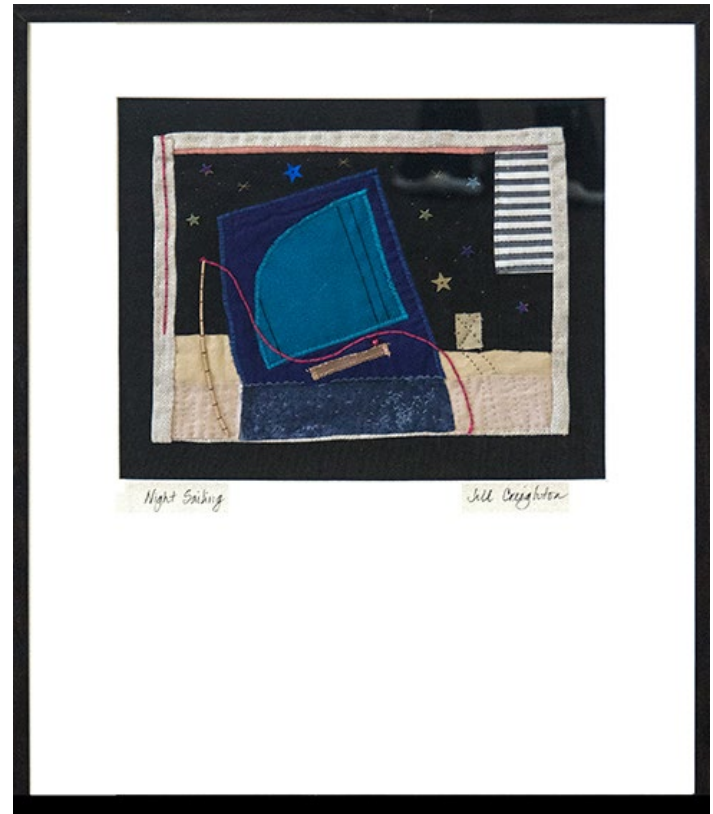
crew for skipper-instructor
my heart flutters with excitement
this first night sail

must dress warmly
despite day heat
nights on water
are frigid damp
so much to remember

shorten sails before dark
check deck and navigational lights
inspect instrument panel
test radio transmitter
confirm watch schedule

when sun descends
magic happens
starlight above like fireworks
black water below with phosphorescent thrusts
challenging possibly dangerous

what's this
hard to believe
haven't left the dock



Night Sailing, © Jill Creighton