

SUE BENNER

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WORKSHOP TITLE: SEWING THE LAND: fused, collaged, and quilted landscapes

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LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all

SEWING MACHINE USED? optional

DESCRIPTION: Each participant will create two to four landscape quilts. Participants will have time to move from small studies on up to larger works of approximately 24 x 48 inches wide. The class will study different approaches to representing landscape, including those of other artists in a variety of media. Sue will then show students how to look at the landscape, analyze it, and translate it to fabric using several fused construction methods to help them accomplish their goals. (Previous students of this class have told Sue that this changed the way they saw the land!)

Sue began making landscape images from raw edges, selvages, and other odds and ends from scrap bags. From there she has gone on to add other techniques and develop a large series of work inspired by wetlands in her childhood-home state, Wisconsin.

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

-a 4-10 photographs of landscapes to translate into a quilt, any other inspirational material you might want to bring; 2-3 reproductions of painted landscapes from artists you particularly like, or any work that intrigues you. (You could even bring a book of an artist who does landscapes.)

- 15-30 yards (the faster you work, the more you bring) of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (WU). Buying a whole bolt is the easiest thing to do (that's 20 yards). *Watch for sales on Wonder-Under. I have purchased it for half price at JoAnn's. Walmart and Hobby Lobby also carry it at a discount.* Do not bring Heat n' Bond. It is a different type of product;

- one 1/4" wide roll or *partial* roll of Stitch Witchery, if you can't find this you can use the wider version, or we can manage adapting with WU;

- an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted constructions. Remember that you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative. Have fun with this! **If you want to interpret your landscape with realistic colors, keep that in mind when choosing your fabrics.** Or, you can use totally **crazy, unrealistic color**. About 30-40 different fabrics, fat quarter (or like) size is fine:

Please include some or all of the following:

- Bring a range of **values** from **light to dark**, not just mediums. Stretch yourself into brights, tints, tones and shades. Black is good, too.
- Mind-bending color, be bold.
- Hand-dyed and painted, solids, near solids, large prints, small prints.
- Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester will all work, include some shiny, funky, silky, etc.
- Recycled thrift store clothing.
- Sheers like chiffon and organza.
- Fabrics you have fused for other projects or classes.
- Please note, if you don't want to buy any fabric for this class, don't, just bring what you have...it will be fine.
- Scraps of all sorts, especially long strips, selvages, ribbons, raw edges, etc., with or without Wonder-Under on them. **Hint: Start saving these scraps now for your landscape class!**

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Pre-washing is not required, but I usually do, especially the recycled clothing. You can fuse fabric before the class, if you like. This would greatly speed up your process in class. You could start with fusing a 12" length of Wonder-Under (17" wide) to a grouping of 20 or so different fabrics. If you buy fabric in fat quarters, fuse that amount. Or, you can fuse fabric scraps. Do not pull paper off, and be sure to transport flat or rolled.

- 3-4 yards cotton backing fabric (fabric for the back side of your quilt), darker fabric is a bit better;
- queen-size cotton batting **or** four pieces of batting, approximately 24" x 48" (don't CUT these sizes, just bring equivalent in pieces). To insure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter's Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batting contains polyester or a scrim that can cause problems, like dimpling or warping (Warm 'N Natural has such a scrim. If it is all you can get, we can deal with it.);
- old 100% cotton sheet or 1 yard of 100% cotton fabric. Part of the above cotton batting and this cotton sheet or fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table. If the tables at the workshop are vinyl or another type of plastic and might warp, please bring a towel or extra batting to pad your table and keep the heat from penetrating to the surface;
- press cloth of 100% cotton long staple cotton (like Pima), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18," white color best. If you don't have any Pima, don't go out and buy any, just bring another pre-washed white cotton instead;
- Teflon press sheet;
- pencil and paper, masking tape;
- steam iron with auto off - if you are driving
- sharp scissors (one large, one small), cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small would be ideal), and clear plastic gridded ruler (6" x 24", for example);
- straight pins;
- multi-plug extension cord with surge protection;
- table-top light.
- sheet to cover your work at night.

OPTIONAL, but HELPFUL SUPPLIES:

- reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer;
- slides of your work, digital images, actual quilts, or portfolio;
- digital camera (highly suggested);
- about 3 manila folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- tacking or sealing iron; and tube of iron cleaner (for a fusing slip-up);
- a sewing machine is not required. If you do bring your machine, the following supplies are suggested:
 - basic sewing machine and hand sewing supplies, darning or free-motion quilting foot, even-feed (walking) foot, couching foot if you have one, machine needles for quilting (e.g., Schmetz Stepp-Nadel Quilting Needles, Microtex or Jeans needles, Organ titanium coated needles are good, too);
 - 10-20 colors of cotton, rayon, polyester, and metallic threads (do not buy new thread for this class, just bring what you can and appropriate needles, topstitch or metallic); embroidery floss and needles for hand sewing are optional;

SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND: digital camera, a limited amount of Wonder-Under and Stitch Witchery, and interesting fabric scraps.

Please email or call if you have any questions about the supply list!

CLASS FEE: none