

SUE BENNER

8517 San Fernando Way

Dallas, Texas 75218

214.324.3550

suebenner@aol.com

WORKSHOP TITLE: **FLORAL ARRANGEMENT: creating fused flower quilts**

©Sue Benner 2008

LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all levels

SEWING MACHINE USED? optional

DESCRIPTION:

Beautiful flowers, concentric pattern, symmetry, block design, fusibles, using silks and sheers, and lots of fun are all included in this class. Learn Sue's layered technique for cutting, assembling, and arranging flowers as done in her extensive Flower Series art quilts. This class will give you the opportunity to use gorgeous fabrics and expansive color. Plus, this construction method can be applied to other designs. Create a small study quilt, then move on to a larger, more involved art quilt.

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

- source materials for flower images, i.e., photographs, seed catalogs, sketches of flowers; color inspiration sources;

- 20-35 yards of Pellon Wonder-Under (the faster you work, the more you bring). Wonder-Under is made of polyester. If you cannot find this brand look for another product that is a paper backed polyester web (*HINT: Watch for sales on Wonder-Under at JoAnn's or use coupons, try Hobby Lobby or Walmart*). Do not bring Heat n' Bond, as it is a different type of product;

- one full/queen-size cotton batt. To insure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter's Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batts contain polyester or a scrim of something else that can cause problems, like dimpling or warping;

- 2 yards or more cotton backing fabric, darker fabrics a bit better;

- FABRIC (for quilt tops) -- Minimum guideline: 40 fat quarters or equivalent, but more is better.

Choose an assortment of fabrics with your flower images in mind. Keep these suggestions in mind:

- Remember, you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative with your choices.
- 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 and don't forget some neutrals!!!!
- Hand-dyed and painted, batiks, large prints, small prints.
- Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester will all work, include some shiny, funky, silky, velvets, etc.
- Recycled thrift store clothing, fun, fun, fun!
- Sheers like chiffon and organza.

Pre-washing is not required, but I usually do, especially the recycled clothing. You can fuse fabric before the class, if you like. You could start with fusing a 12" or 24" length of Wonder-Under (17" wide) to a grouping of fabrics. (Or, in other terms, fuse a collection of fat quarters, if that is the usual quantity of fabric you buy.) Do not pull paper off, transport flat or rolled.

Continued on Back

- 5 manila folders, 20-25 sheets of 8_ x 11 paper (makes sorting your cut flowers easier);
- multi-plug extension cord with surge protection;
- press cloth of 100% cotton long staple cotton (like pima), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18," white color best. If you don't have this kind of cotton bring any kind of white cotton;
- **compass** (important!), pencils, 3-4 colored pencils, sharpener, and paper for drawing , black fine point Sharpie, masking tape;
- iron, Teflon press sheet;
- 8_ " x 8_ " gridded plastic square (like Quilter's Rule or "Speedy" by Holiday Designs) , if you already have another size that is larger you can bring it instead (Students find this square to be very helpful. I use a template square cut out of a manila folder, very low tech and cheap.);
- old 100% cotton sheet or 1 yard of 100% cotton fabric. Part of the cotton batting and this cotton sheet or fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table;
- small sharp scissors (This will be your main flower cutting instrument so be prepared that you will be cutting through fabric and WU paper some or most of the time. My suggestion is to bring TWO scissors, one a *small*, 6" long, SoftTouch Fiskars with a spring handle. And, two, a regular small scissors without a spring. I go back and forth between these two so I alternate my cutting motion a bit.);
- cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small would be ideal), and ruled straight edge, X-acto knife (optional) if you like using one;
- straight pins for design board.
- table-top light.
- sheet to cover your work at night.

Optional Supplies:

Iron cleaner, hand-wipes (to clean graphite from pencils off your hands), 36" ruler, tacking or sealing iron (Hobbico is one brand), reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer, digital camera, gallon plastic bags (three should be plenty) for storing fused scraps, circle template (like Pickett Circle Master for drawing smaller circles);

- a sewing machine is **not required** (you can spend all your time designing flowers and quilts). But if you want to bring your machine, the following supplies are suggested:

- basic sewing machine and hand sewing supplies, including large scissors, small pointed scissors, 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 75/11 and 90/14, Microtex or Jeans needles OK, Organ brand good, too);
- 5-20 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);

If you would like to share your work with the class, feel free to bring slides, a portfolio, or actual quilts.

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

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

CLASS FEE: none