

DESIGNING FROM NATURE

Ruth B. McDowell

We begin the class with an introduction to the methods and techniques I have found successful in my pieced quilts. Then, using the images the students bring, we will discuss their translation into pieced quilt designs. Each student will begin their own pieced design, using subjects and seaming techniques attractive to them. Individual time with each student will help them find options and solutions. Some students will work on developing a simple design and be able to finish the top of the quilt. Others may choose a more complex image, make the design and template pattern and finish the auditioning of fabric, but not complete the sewing process in class.

Suggested texts: *Ruth B. McDowell's Piecing Workshop*, C&T Publishing, 2007, *Ruth B. McDowell's Design Workshop*, C&T Publishing 2007 (*A Fabric Journey*, C&T 2005, will also be helpful for a look at piecing/fabric/border decisions)

Level of skill: ADVANCED PIECING EXPERIENCE MANDATORY

*If you haven't taken this class before, please read the directions(!) and practice with the sample blocks, or maple leaf or waterlily quilts from **Ruth B McDowell's Piecing Workshop**. Or with designs from **When Quilters Gather** or **Pieced Vegetables** books, or my Peaceable Bear pattern to introduce yourself to my freezer paper template and piecing methods.*

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST:

Subjects from nature that inspire YOU. Real flowers, plants, leaves, shells, fruit, etc., or photographs or drawings of natural objects, people or landscapes (the larger, the better). Look carefully and in detail at possible subject matter, or, if you wish, prepare a large size **careful** freehand line drawing in advance. This may be either a free hand drawing or traced from a photo (yours or with permission of the photographer). Please do not bring artwork (photo, drawing, quilt, or painting) by another artist with the intention of copying it unless you have obtained permission.

Suggested: to save time: A very careful line drawing or tracing of your subject enlarged to the size at which you wish to work.

Continued on back

If tracing a photo, enlarge the section of the photo that interests you on a copier to 11"x17" **first**, then carefully trace on clear plastic or tracing paper. Although I have pieced facial features once in my hobbit quilt, I do not recommend it.

Pencils Clear Quilters Ruler Eraser Lots of Pins Colored pencils (not watercolor)

Paper Tape or narrow Masking Tape (beige if possible) Highlighter

Fabric scissors

A few large sheets of paper Tracing paper Paper scissor Sewing kit

Correction tape (no liquid)

Rotary cutter and pad Large ziploc bag Multi-plug extension cord with surge protection

Freezer paper **Extra or Ultra Fineline permanent marker (Sharpie brand)**

Table-top light

Sheet or fleece to pin up work in progress and to transport it home

Additional sheet to cover your work at night

Sewing machine (*unless you hand piece or plan to concentrate entirely on design and fabric selection*). *If you like to hand-piece, you may enjoy that for curved seam designs.*

A selection of fabrics

One half yard or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Small prints, medium prints, large prints, tie-dyes, plaids, stripes, mottled fabrics, prints containing 3 or more colors, scraps. Fabric choices for nature quilts are often not "pretty" fabrics. You may want to investigate sources beyond traditional quilt shops.

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