

# Empty Spools Seminars

SESSION II: Friday – Wednesday, March 2 – 7, 2018

## LAYERED FABRIC COLLAGE MATERIALS LIST

Meri Henriques Vahl

Please bring:

- a photo, sketch or design idea to work with
- scissors
- fabric in colors that will complement your picture: batiks, large and small prints, novelty fabrics, etc.
- a piece of batting the size you want your project to be (plan to work small enough to finish your collage in one day) – I will show you how to add borders or even more work area so you can make your art quilt any size you want!
- a piece of fabric (same size as batting) for the back
- a piece of **very fine black tulle** (same size as batting) to cover your project – and you can also try out other colors of tulle for special effects; and you might also want to try several other colors of tulle
- various embellishments for special effects: yarn, trim, beads, buttons, feathers, sequins, other colors of tulle for shadows, clouds, etc.
- **OPTIONAL** : fabric glue and/or a fusible, such as *Lite Steam-A-Seam*
- **LOTS!!!** of straight or safety pins – I prefer *Quilter's Basting Brights*, which are very sharp, very fine safety pins
- a playful attitude!
- SEWING MACHINES MAY NOT BE NEEDED!!!

### FABRIC COLLAGE – MAKING FACES (*and arms & hands, legs and feet, etc.*)

If you would like to include people to your project, you will need:

- a *black and white* Xerox copy of your person, the *exact size* you want him or her to be in your quilt (Kinko's or home printer).
- a medium line black permanent pen and a pencil
- good quality colored pencils: dark blue, rose red, yellow, brown, tan, black, etc. – to match your person's skin tones (I like Caran d'Ache watercolor pencil Supracolor II #3888-159 for ethnic people)
- medium weight (if available) **fusible** interfacing (the kind with a *smooth* glue surface, *NOT* dots of glue, which can give your person a rash-y look, to use as a foundation)
- fine-line permanent markers such as Sharpies, especially black & brown
- tightly-woven cotton fabric – batiks work best because they're very finely woven (I use *tan* batik for ethnic faces)
- *Lite Steam-A-Seam 2* or other paper-backed fusible
- Krylon spray fixative
- bright window or light box
- freezer paper

1. With your medium line black pen, start by outlining your person right on your black and white Xerox copy. Make sure you also draw around the important *hard* linear features of your person's face: outside shape, eyes, nostrils, ears, lips, neck, etc – but *not* shadows under cheeks, for example. If you'll be adding hands and feet, you'll also want to outline arms and fingers, legs and toes.
2. Next make a 'paper doll': using a black pen, take a piece of fusible interfacing and trace the entire outline of your person onto it, **glue side up**, and you may also want to mark parts of the clothing – skirt or pants, blouse or shirt, shoes, etc. for reference points. Cut the paper doll out.
3. Cut a piece of fabric slightly larger than your person's face and iron it onto Lite Steam-A-Seam, which will stabilize it.
4. Tape your black and white, outlined image to a bright window or light box, then tape the fused fabric, **fabric side up**, over it.
5. *Lightly* transfer all the outlines you've drawn on your person's face onto the fused fabric with a blue pencil, then remove your fused fabric and black & white photo from the window or light box.
6. Now *look very carefully* at your original black and white Xerox copy. Notice where the shadows occur on the face – this is what gives it its 3- dimensional form. Drawing on your fabric with the side of your blue pencil lead (**don't** use the point!), shade your drawing of the face and neck in the same places as the photo (shadowed side of the nose, neck, face, etc.). Contrast the darkest areas – for example on the neck below the chin – with the lighter areas – for example the cheek shadows, which won't need as much shading. NOTE: While you're drawing, you may need to occasionally re-iron the fabric onto the fusible paper if they start to separate.
7. When the shadows are completed to your satisfaction, you now have the basic form of your person's face – you just need color to make it come alive! Using your original color photograph as a reference, start layering color onto the face in the same manner: yellows, tans and browns for overall skin tone; red tones in the lips, cheeks, etc; black or brown for eyebrows and lashes. You will be adding these colors to the whole face, excepting the eyes, and be sure to go over the blue outlines with each color as you go, since you don't want your finished face to have a blue outline. Add white highlights to the cheeks, nose, eyes, lips, etc., and to the white part of the eyeballs, then add color to the colored part of the eye, plus a dot of black for the iris and a spot of white for a highlight, to give the eye a realistic touch.
8. Continue adding color until you are satisfied with the appearance of the face, then 'punch up' the image with your fine-line permanent marker pens to give life to the drawing.
9. Spray your finished drawing with Krylon Fixative (outside or in a very well ventilated area!). Let dry. Then look at your person – if you're not satisfied with the color intensity or details, the fixative allows you to go back in continue adding to your work!
10. Remove the fusible paper backing – then cut around the face, leaving a scant 1/4" margin if you're going to appliqué the person on top of the tulle to make him or her seem closer to the viewer - but if you're placing your person under the final tulle overlay, you won't need to turn anything under, so you can just trim the face right up to its outer edge. Iron it in place on your paper doll. You are now ready to add hair, arms, legs, clothing, etc. to your paper doll, making freezer paper templates for the clothing as necessary (if there's an article of clothing that has folds or pleats, just cut a larger piece of fabric and fuse it, then remove the fusible paper and work folds into the fabric – then iron it onto your paper doll and trim to size). Take careful note of the fact that some of these pieces, such as arms or legs may begin under a piece of clothing, such as a shirt sleeve, but will end up over another article of clothing, such as a skirt, and apply the body parts accordingly.

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