

Jumpstart Design and Creativity

Learn the basics of good design and explore exercises to unleash the creative process. Bring out your inner artist and learn to apply the principles to making of art quilts.

Each day starts with a different exercise in color and composition. You will work in a 12-inch square format. These exercises can then be the inspiration for a larger piece. Composition with line and shape will be explored, as well as addressing negative space, soft and hard edges, abstraction of realistic inspirations, etc. Critiques of work will be held each evening.

MATERIALS LIST

- Inspirational photographs; a collection of images that you have been saving from magazines; calendar pages as possible idea starters for quilts; or your own images.
- Full value fabric range from very light to very dark (I use 7 values) in your chosen color scheme. You can work the whole week with one color scheme to explore it fully or you can bring several color schemes to work with for the different exercises.
Possible color schemes - monochromatic, analogous, split complementary, complementary, triadic, analogous plus a complement, or you can choose two warm and a cool and/or two cool and a warm.

DESIGN EXERCISES OVERVIEW

Several exercises will be quick. Fusing will be the best way to do the exercises but if you are going to use one of the exercises as a spin off to start a quilt, you can work whatever way you are comfortable with. These fabrics can be fused, raw edge, or, I can show you how I do turned edge applique.

For each day's class, we will do one different design exploration. As stated before, you can bring one color scheme in which to explore all the exercises, or you can bring different color schemes – a different scheme for each exercise. Yes, I know this is a lot to prepare, but, it will be so worth it. You will discover much about your stash as you search for the fabrics needed, so enjoy the process.

EXERCISE ONE: Composition with Line

Complementary color scheme

- 4 or more fat quarters or 12 inch squares unfused. Light, medium and dark of the two different colors fused. For example, if you chose complementary colors of blue and orange, bring at least one light, one medium and one dark of blue and the same of orange. (Always nice to have choices so bring more if you can). Swatches should be approximately 6 by 12 inches of each piece fused.



SESSION 5

Friday to Wednesday, May 5 – 10, 2023

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EXERCISE TWO: Abstracting a Photograph, two parts

- Inspiration photo to use to inspire abstract designs
- Color scheme from light to dark (7 values of each color minimum, I will show you how to sort into the 7 value steps so several of each value is recommended) These colors should not be the same as the photo, using unexpected colors adds to the abstractness. Several 12 ½ inch squares in assorted values for backgrounds unfused, assorted colors and values fused and ready to use. More is always better.

EXERCISE THREE: Distorting the Still Life

- Inspiration photo of still life
- Two 13-inch pieces of same solid fabric for background one fused one not.
- Full value range of color scheme in smaller pieces (6 x 12") fused. Again the more you bring the more fun you will have

EXERCISE FOUR: Piecing Within a Grid

- Inspiration photo of anything that makes your heart sing, fabrics in full value range for the colors in the image. This will be a machine piecing exercise so all fabrics unfused.

- Sketch book for ideas and pencil and ruler
- Tracing paper
- Your preferred Fusable web, rotary cutter and mat and ruler. (I prefer Steam-A-Seam 2)
- Sewing machine and neutral thread set up for straight stitching.
- If driving, table top lamp and a multi-plug extension cord with surge protection.
- Something to cover your work at night.
- Optional iron and pad
- Glue stick



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