

## Driven to Abstraction: developing abstract imagery

The exploration of abstraction in the art quilt medium is the theme of this workshop, both objective (abstracted from an actual subject) and non-objective. Through exercises, slide shows, individual discussions and a review of the history of abstraction, Sue will lead you through methods for developing abstract imagery. Each student will create a series of works based on source materials brought to class for inspiration. Instruction on using fusible collage as the construction technique will be presented, but these concepts can later be applied to other techniques as well. This is a great class for pushing your personal work.

(Workshop includes PowerPoint presentations, demonstrations, and handout.)

### SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

- ☐ INSPIRATIONAL IMAGES or source materials for your work in class--photographs, sketches, sketchbook scribbles, designs, magazine pages, etc. Two or three good ideas are plenty!
- ☐ ABSTRACT ART/ARTIST INFLUENCE--a reproduction of at least one abstract image (or book) of an artist's work that you like to contribute to a class discussion. I suggest you look outside the quilt medium for this.
- ☐ FUSIBLE- 20-25 yards (the faster you work, the more you bring) of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (WU is 17" wide). Buying a whole bolt is the easiest thing to do (that's 20 yards). Watch for sales on Wonder-Under. I have bought it for half price at JoAnn's. Soft Fuse is a good product and is 18" or 37" wide (adjust amount as necessary) and can be ordered online. Misty Fuse is also a good product, but please bring a roll of parchment paper to use with it as it does not come with paper. Yes, you can use the Steam a Seam 2 Lite especially if you already have it and you like working with it. Do not bring Heat'n'Bond.
- ☐ FABRIC! Choose an assortment of fabrics with your inspirational images in mind. Bring the fabrics you want to work with, that are your signature, and then..., 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 tints, tones and shades.
  - Mind-bending color, be bold and don't forget the neutrals!!!!
  - Large prints, small prints, hand-dyed and painted.
  - Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester will all work—and are strongly recommended for adding interest.
  - Recycled thrift store clothing, fun, fun, fun!
  - Sheers like chiffon and organza.
  - Anything of interest that you want to put into your work.
  - Total fabric amount—about 30-40 different fabrics, with the equivalent of a fat quarter each. This is just to give you an idea of the amount, the size and shape of each fabric can differ.
  - Don't sweat the fabric choice too much. We can work with almost anything! Really!  
*Pre-washing is not required but strongly recommended for a better fuse. I almost always prewash, including the recycled clothing.*
  - Before you come to class, I also strongly recommend fusing *Wonder-Under* to a grouping (10-20?) of fabrics, about 9" x 17" of each would suffice. Do not pull paper off, transport flat or rolled.



### SESSION 2

Friday to Wednesday, March 1–6, 2024

Mail: 5306 Springridge Court, Fairfield, CA 94534-4005 | Phone: (707) 864-1170 Fax (707) 864-1345  
Email: [info@emptypoolsseminars.com](mailto:info@emptypoolsseminars.com) | Website: [emptypoolsseminars.com](http://emptypoolsseminars.com)

## Driven to Abstraction: developing abstract imagery

- 2-4 yards or more cotton fabric for the backs of your quilts;
- BATTING: one twin-size cotton batting or roughly equivalent in pieces (e.g., 4 pieces each about a yard square). To ensure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as *Quilter's Dream Cotton* or *Fairfield Soft Touch*. Some battings contain polyester or a synthetic 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.);
- Teflon press sheet and/or a roll of parchment paper (Reynolds white smart-grid good). These are especially necessary for Misty Fuse and Spun Fab that don't come with release paper;
- Table-top light with extension cord and outlet strip;
- Something to cover your worktable at night;
- straight pins;
- one or two soft-lead pencils (2HB Ticonderoga good), two soft-lead, colored pencils (like Prismacolor), or your best approximation of these pencils, paper (about 10 sheets office paper or spiral of drawing paper, a few sheets of tracing paper, letter size is fine, black fine point Sharpie, masking tape, glue stick, one colorful magazine to cut up);
- steam iron;
- 1 yard (1m) of 100% cotton solid fabric, preferably white (this is a "junker" 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;
- sharp scissors, cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small, 18-mm, would be ideal), and gridded ruler (24" x 6" is good or metric equivalent), gridded square (6 1/2" or larger or metric equivalent);
- a quilt to show to the class.

### OPTIONAL, BUT HELPFUL SUPPLIES

- reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer (your digital camera works for this, too).
- digital camera (your phone is usually fine for this);
- press cloth of 100% cotton long staple cotton (like pima), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18" (45x45cm), white color best.
- about 5 office file folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- old blouses or other clothing to add to class stash, silks are best, but other interesting fabrics welcome;
- tacking or sealing iron (brand name, Hobbico or Hanger 9); iron cleaning sheets (for a fusing slip-up);
- X-acto knife (helpful to cut intricate designs);
- tweezers
- a sewing machine is not required or needed, but you may bring it if you want to sew or quilt.

### SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND

A pile of recycled and thrifted fabric scraps to share.

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

## SUE BENNER

8517 San Fernando Way, Dallas, Texas 75218, 214.796.8089

benner.sue@gmail.com, www.suebenner.com



### SESSION 2

Friday to Wednesday, March 1–6, 2024

Mail: 5306 Springridge Court, Fairfield, CA 94534-4005 | Phone: (707) 864-1170 Fax (707) 864-1345  
Email: info@emptypoolsseminars.com | Website: emptypoolsseminars.com