

LAYERS OF LIGHTNESS:

Painting, Designing, and Constructing with Translucent Fabric

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

Discover the design and color world which opens up while composing quilts or fabric collages with layers of luscious silk organza and crisp cotton organdy. We will begin by producing a gem-like palette of translucent fabric with water-based paints and then proceed to the design wall, where new colors and shapes will emerge as the translucent fabrics are layered. We will also produce a technique sampler notebook as we experiment with traditional Korean pojagi, tucks, and other machine and hand-sewn seams to explore the design possibilities different finished edges provide. Design options will expand with discussions of ways to incorporate surface stitchery, printed imagery, and opaque fabrics into your fabric compositions.

Level: All

CLASS FEE: \$40 for silk organza (2.5 yds), cotton organdy (1 yd), Mistyfuse (1 yard), Lutradur book kit, fabric paint, handouts, and use of class supplies.

CLASS SUPPLY LIST FOR STUDENTS:

Please don't panic. Someone in the class almost always has that item you forgot to pack and you will have something that someone else needs. If we are willing to share a little (and shop a little!), all will be well. So, relax, breathe, pack what you can and maybe a little extra to lend, and trust that it will all be okay. Since I don't know how this list will be copied and sent to you, please be aware that there are 4 sections: Basic Class Supplies, Basic Sewing Supplies, Painting Supplies, plus a list of optional items to bring if your car isn't full yet, so be sure and either look for a second page or turn the sheet over to see the complete list. Please email me at jdmeyer@teleport.com if you have any questions about this list.

Basic Class Supplies:

- o Notebook and/or sketchbook
- o Pencil and/or pen
- o Reducing glass, binoculars, digital camera or other tool for viewing your work from a distance. I recommend the digital camera, as that will also serve as an archive for your designs-in-progress.
- o 4 strips of white felt or white batting cut into strips at least 8 inches wide and 18" long to use for cropping on the design wall
- o Masking tape
- o Roll of 1 mm plastic drop cloth

Basic Sewing Supplies:

- o Sewing machine in good working order. Pack your instruction booklet (and your foot pedal and plug -- don't laugh; it's happened!). If you haven't used your machine in a while, take it out for a spin. Do not bring a brand new machine to class if you've never used it before. Check your instruction booklet to make sure you know how to move your needles to the right and left, how to make a bobbin, how to change a needle. Make sure your machine is oiled and clean and happy to play with you. End of lecture.
- o Presser feet: quarter inch foot, free motion foot, blanket stitch foot (if you have one)
- o Fabric scissors
- o Paper scissors

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- Rotary cutter, gridded ruler, and mat
- Seam ripper (not that you will personally need it, of course, but your neighbor might)
- Extra bobbins
- Extra machine needles suitable for sewing silk
- Thimble (if you use one)
- Hand sewing needles suitable for use with silk
- Threads – an assortment of content (silk, rayon, cotton, metallic – go for it!) and colors. Thread spools are small and light; err on the side of packing more than you think you'll need and try to find it in your heart to share with others if necessary.

Painting Supplies:

- 2 or 3 inexpensive paint brushes – cheap WIDE foam brushes are fine), and/or inexpensive paint rollers
- Containers for mixing colors – wide mouth containers to accommodate wide foam brushes; paint trays or styrofoam trays to fit your paint roller
- Good quality white muslin or broadcloth. You'll use this as a drop cloth for painting the organza. The drop cloths often turn out to be gorgeous fabric you can use as a background for your composition. You'll need two pieces, each about 2 yds long, as this is roughly the size of tables used in most classrooms.
- Pressing cloth or parchment paper
- Rags or paper towels for clean up
- Apron
- Disposable gloves if you don't like paint on your hands

Optional:

- Fabric markers or pens if you'd like to draw on the background fabric
- Patterned fabric to use as a backing for the organza compositions. Choose these fabrics with the knowledge that some of the pattern will show through the layers of organza. Black and white prints can work well.
- Extra Silk Organza --Pass up the polyester organza and go for the gold. We'll be working with small pieces of fabric, so this is a good use for remnants and leftovers. If you buy colors fresh off the bolt, don't wash them. Organza is much easier to use when it hasn't been washed.
- Chocolate to enhance creativity. I'm sure there's a research project somewhere that supports this theory.