

# SUE BENNER

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## WORKSHOP TITLE: SELF-PORTRAIT: The Artist as Quilt

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**LENGTH:** 2-3 days

**LEVEL:** all levels

**SEWING MACHINE USED?** Optional (If you want to quilt, bring your machine. If you don't want to pack your machine, leave it at home.)

**DESCRIPTION:** The self-portrait has long been a standard form of artistic expression. By creating an image of ourselves, we can explore our identities, stories, motivations, and fears—and, have a lot of fun in the process. Gather up the photographs, journals, and sketches. Bring fabric (with lots of meaning), old clothing, personal mementos. Come to class and work it all out. The results can be fascinating and revealing.

Sue will present a range of approaches to the quilted self-portrait, from head shot to whole body. In the process of creating your image, you will learn and use Sue's fusible construction techniques and alternative assembly methods.

### SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

- **several photographs of yourself**, ideas—your face (frontal,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , profile), entire figure, you at different ages, etc. Photos of important people, places, things in your life, drawings of yourself if you have them, images cut from magazines that are meaningful to you, copies of pages from your journal or sketchbook, or you may enlarge a photo or two on a copier to life-size or larger, etc. You can choose some of the fabrics you bring with these ideas in mind. You could even make an image or two printed on fabric with a copier or computer printer. (You do not need to bring *all* of these things listed above);

*Please note: if you want to make a full-life-size self portrait, adjust your amounts of fabric and supplies accordingly.*

- 10-15 yards (the faster you work, the more you bring) of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 or another paper-backed fusible web of polyester. *Watch for sales on Wonder-Under or use a coupon. I have bought it for half price at JoAnn's, and whole bolts are often available. Walmart and Hobby Lobby also carry it at a discount;*

- an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted self-portrait--cottons, silks, rayons, and polyesters--are all workable, approximately the equivalent of 20 fat quarters (but can be any shape). Some suggestions:

- Fabrics in colors you particularly love,
- Fabrics from clothes you wore (something from your hopeless mending pile?) or whole pieces of your clothing to dress your self portrait
- Thrift store clothing,
- Scraps of all sorts and sizes,
- Fabrics that represent different times in your life,
- Mementos you can attach to your self-portraits,
- Other embellishments;

*Pre-washing is not required, but I (almost) always pre-wash, including silks and recycled clothing. You can fuse fabric before the class, if you like. This would greatly speed up your process in class. You could start with fusing a 12"-17" length of Wonder-Under (17" wide) to a grouping of 20 or so different fabrics. Or, you can fuse fabric scraps. Do not pull paper off, and be sure to transport flat or rolled.*

- 1 yard or more cotton backing fabric (fabric for the back side of your quilt);

- one half of a full/queen-size cotton batting **or** four “scraps” of batting each about 24” x 30” or larger (for whole body quilt). To insure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter’s Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batting contains polyester or a 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.);
- 1 yard of 100% white cotton fabric. Part of the above cotton batting and this cotton fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table. If the tables at the workshop are vinyl or another type of plastic and might warp when heated, please bring a towel or extra batting to pad your table and keep the heat from penetrating to the surface;
- Teflon press sheet and/or parchment paper;
- pencil and drawing paper, masking tape;
- steam iron;
- sharp scissors (one large, one small), cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small would be ideal), and gridded ruler,
- straight pins;
- extension cord and outlet strip, unless furnished by class.
- design board or equivalent unless furnished by class..

**OPTIONAL, but HELPFUL SUPPLIES:**

- reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer;
- your portfolio or photos of your quilts;
- digital camera (highly suggested);
- about 3 manila folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- press cloth of 100% long-staple cotton (like Pima), pre-washed, approximately 18” x 18,” white color best. If you don’t have any Pima, don’t go out and buy any, just bring another pre-washed white cotton instead;
- tacking or sealing iron;
- iron cleaner (for a fusing slip-up);
- portable light;
- a sewing machine is not required, but if you want to sew, bring the appropriate supplies and feet.

**SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND:** digital camera, a limited amount of Wonder-Under and Stitch Witchery, and interesting fabrics to share.

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

**CLASS FEE:** none