

SUE BENNER

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WORKSHOP TITLE: COMPOSITION QUARTET: four techniques for fused quilts

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LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all

SEWING MACHINE USED? optional

DESCRIPTION:

A quartet of quilts! Challenge yourself compositionally and learn four different ways to construct fused quilts: squares/rectangles, curvilinear design, cut-and-collage, and landscape. Using step-by-step directions with many creative options, you'll make 4 quilts (about 16" x 20" or larger) using Sue's fusible techniques. She will also cover fusible basics, working with non-traditional fabrics, quilting, blocking, and binding. By the end of this workshop experience, construction ideas will abound!

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

-source material: 1) a few photographs of landscapes to translate into a quilt, 2) an inspiration for curvilinear design, photo or other image, e.g. Georgia O'Keeffe flower painting, 3) any other inspirational material you might want to bring;

- 20-25 yards of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (the faster you work, the more you bring). If you cannot find this brand, look for another similar product that is a release paper-backed web. **Do not** bring Heat n' Bond -- it is a different type of product. (*HINT: Watch for sales on Wonder-Under. I have bought it for half price at JoAnn's.*)

- **FABRIC!!!!** Bring an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted constructions. Remember that you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative. The fabrics should be a **variety of solids, near solids, small prints, large prints, plaids, etc., with a wide range of VALUE and color**. Have fun with this! Keep in mind that you will be making a landscape if you want to use realistic colors. Please include some or all of the following:

- silk of all kinds, cotton, rayon, polyester
- batiks, hand-painted and dyed fabrics are great;
- a few sheers such as tulle, net, organza (poly or silk), chiffon (poly or silk)
- fun, fun fabrics, possibly recycled from thrift store clothes
- you can bring fabric that you have already fused for other quilts, or
- if you like to get a head start, fuse 7-10 fabrics, an area about 17" x 12" (do not pull off paper, transport flat or rolled

Pre-washing is not required, but I almost always do, including the recycled clothing and anything that I think is prone to bleed.

- 2 yards or more cotton backing fabric (fabric for the back side of the quilt), darker colors a bit better;

- one twin-size cotton batting (If you want to use up smaller pieces of batting, please bring 6 pieces about 24" x 24" or larger.). To insure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter's Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batting contains polyester or another 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.);

(cont'd on other side)

- press cloth of 100% cotton low lint, long staple cotton (like a Pima or Egyptian cotton), 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;
- Teflon press sheet;
- straight pins, pencil and paper, masking tape;
- steam iron;
- 1 yard of 100% cotton fabric in a solid color, preferably white (this is a "junker" fabric, just an ironing surface). Part of the cotton batting and this cotton fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table;
- sharp scissors (one large, one small), cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small, 18mm, would be ideal), and gridded ruler (24" x 6"good), gridded square (6 ½ or larger) ;
- extension cord and outlet strip, unless furnished by class.
- one or two soft lead colored pencil (e.g. red Prisma Color pencil)
- ten pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper

OPTIONAL, but HELPFUL SUPPLIES:

- parchment paper;
- one 1/4" wide roll or *partial* roll of Stitch Witchery;
- tweezers;
- reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer;
- a quilt or portfolio to share with the class;
- digital camera/phone camera, highly suggested;
- about 5 manila folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- old blouses or other clothing to add to class stash, silks best, but other interesting fabrics welcome;
- tacking or sealing iron (brand name, Hobbico); iron cleaning sheets (for a fusing slip-up);
- portable sewing light;
- X-acto knife (helpful to cut intricate designs);
- a sewing machine is not required, but you may bring it if you have the room. If you do bring your machine, the following supplies are suggested:
 - basic sewing machine and hand sewing supplies, darning or free-motion quilting foot, even-feed (walking) foot, couching foot if you have one, machine needles for quilting (e.g., Schmetz Stepp-Nadel Quilting Needles, Microtex or Jeans needles, Organ titanium coated needles are good, too);
 - 10-20 colors of cotton, rayon, polyester, and metallic threads (do not buy new thread for this class, just bring what you can and appropriate needles, topstitch or metallic);

SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND: digital camera, a limited amount of Wonder-Under and Stitch Witchery, and interesting fabric scraps.

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

CLASS FEE: none