

Signs and Symbols

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From suns and moons to honey bees and hands, throughout history, people have made use of a wide variety of signs and symbols to make sense of the world, and to communicate.

After a discovering the fascinating, varied symbolic meanings attached to the natural and man-made world, students will be guided in making a rich meaningful personal quilt top that portrays their individual identities. Emphasis will be on design, color, and symbolic meaning while techniques in both hand and machine piecing and appliqué will be shown.

Supply List

- Sewing machine, cleaned, oiled and in good working order. Bring manual and knee lift if you have one.

Extension cord with appropriate adaptor/multiplug ☐

Normal feet for your machine.

Optional : embroidery or other specialized feet.

- Machine needles. Choose according to your fabric. Universal (Schmetz 80) for cotton fabric, 90 for heavier fabric, 60 for silk or thin fabric

Optional: specialized needles eg metallica, embroidery, etc

- Thread: neutral sewing thread of your choice. Optional: specialist threads eg, metallic, embroidery or heavy thread.
- Pins
- Rotary cutter with sharp blade, cutting mat, plastic rulers of your choice
- Glue stick
- Notebook/Journal with your choice of writing instruments Tracing paper, appliqué paper, stabilizer of your choice.
- Digital camera or smartphone

Fabrics:

A variety of fabrics in colors of your choice, preferably 100% cotton, in hand-dyed and commercial fabrics, solid colors, subtle and/or strong textural prints, tone-on-tone prints. You may wish to include specialist fabrics like velvets and silks. Make sure you have a good range of lights, mediums and darks. Include neutrals, related colors and contrasts.

Remember the greater the choice you have, the more exciting the possibilities for your work!

Preparation:

In this class we will be looking at signs and symbols, and how we can use them in making a well-designed quilt. So spend time looking at the meaning and shapes of the details in the world around you e.g. in your home, your garden, nature, people you care about, music, books and literature that you love etc. Collect images from books and magazines that please you and are meaningful to you, and bring these to class. Become obsessed with signs and symbols