

## **WORKSHOP PREP for AFTER-IMAGE + PHOTO FINISH WORKSHOP**

jwb c

**Choose the THEME:** Complete the following sentence: "I have always wanted to make a quilt about \_\_\_\_\_". You might start with a literary quote, lines from a poem, or lyrics from a song. The subject might be playful or profound. It might come from memory or imagination. What inspires you? What intrigues you?

### **Some suggestions:**

**NATURE:** celestial /unearthly,/ the sea, the seasons [snow, sweltering, ice, Spring, ETC.

**GEOGRAPHIC/GEOLOGICAL:** rock, canyon, mountain, mesa, desert, meadow, garden, jungle, ETC.

**MOOD/EMOTION:** elated, dejected, agitated, serene, "road rage", optimism ETC.

**CULTURAL/ETHNIC:** Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Edwardian, Navajo, ETC.

**An ACTION:** floating, falling, racing, chasing, dancing, jumping, ETC.

**ARCHITECTURAL :** towers, spires, arches, portals, ETC.

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Choose the PHOTOGRAPH:**

You'll want a photo that is **complex**, with a **high contrast of values** and lots of **visual information**. Your photograph *might* be pictorial, literal or panoramic; OR it can be abstract and enigmatic. In either case, you'll work with the full image, as well as choose several isolated views and details that will become highly abstract and provide visual interest, textures, patterns, gradations of value, linear structures, etc.

**NOTE:** Select a photo that offers lots of visual details and potential design options. The content of your photo does not have to depict/express your theme; the fabrics will do that!

Start with a **COLOR PHOTO** you have taken. **Print it as a black/white 'gray scale' value study**, making sure you can 'see' the subtle differences in the values. *Experiment with adjustments for lightness, darkness and a strong contrast of values!*

You don't need to bring the color original unless you want to; its purpose was to generate the grey-scale model for the relative values, not to function as a color guide when you're auditioning fabrics. Your color palette will be completely intuitive and chosen for its ability to convey and describe your theme.

You'll want a range of sizes: on regular copy paper, rather than photo paper.

\_\_ **Make [3] copies in the original size.**

\_\_ **Make [3] copies in a reduced size, and [3] copies in an increased size.**

No matter what the size of the original, I usually decrease to about **75%** and increase to about **125%**.

Then : **isolate an abstract area within the larger image.**

**Make [2] copies of that area in full size, [2] copies decreased to 75% and [2] copies of that area increased to 125%. [Whenever possible, combine images to save paper and printing costs]**

You will have **a collection of 15 black-gray-and-white photo sources**, in various sizes, to build your experimental collages. The final collage will fit within an 8 ½" x 11" page.

The degree of enlargement to quilt size will be a matter of choice.

**SUPPLIES:** After-image + Photo Finish workshop

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Black Sharpie fine point Pen

Glue stick

A compass for drawing arcs and circles

Rulers / pencils

rotary cutter and board

3 or 4 see-thru acetate loose leaf notebook sleeves [frosted or clear]

flannel/pellon pin-up work wall/pins

Removable Scotch tape and blue tape

10 sheets 8 ½" x 11" white copier paper

fabric scissors and paper scissors

**ALL sewing equipment: machine, threads, pins, extension cords, etc.****\$ for:** enlarging and printing your diagram / on-site fabric purchases / batting and backing, if you get that far

ALSO: your Walking Foot, for machine quilting . . . just in case

**FABRICS:** ALL your fabric choices will be based on whether they will help you express your **theme** as **eloquently** as possible, **more expressively** than any other fabrics will. This is all about understanding that the character and personality of fabrics are vehicles for 'saying what you want to say'. Your collage is a Value Reference / your fabrics will provide Content.

You might begin with **one fabric** you love unconditionally, for itself as well as for its ability to advance your theme - - - the one that leaps off the shelf into your hands, saying "Use me! Use me!" - - - the one that will make your quilt magnificent, rather than merely 'ok'. That will be your start - - - and all subsequent choices will be based on "do you love them together?" and do they also express your theme?

**WHAT KIND?** Your challenge will be to transform a gray-scale composition from color-LESS to color-FULL. Your fabrics may be commercially-produced and/or one-of-a-kind, hand-dyed/hand-painted. Will you need lame', polished cottons, metallics? Will you need complex AND simple? Dramatic AND subtle? Will you want to combine fabrics to make 'invented yardage'? Consider every type of fabric: bring solids, patterns/prints/textures and/or geometrics **in a variety of different scales** - - - and maybe upholstery samples, gauzy stuff and dress fabrics. Most of your selections will complement and support your theme; other will *enhance* the theme because they are different and provide a contrast of content! By that, I mean: even though your theme might be "Monet's Garden at Giverny", you'll want more than just 'the world's largest collection of floral prints, so you won't feel 'choked by chintz'. [...now *there's* a theme!].

**HOW MANY?** You may bring all 12 hues of the spectrum; but DO bring at least **6-8 different** colors. THEN: **bring a minimum of 5 different value levels for each color in your stash.** Value variations will be your most useful tool.

**HOW MUCH?** Bring [more than] enough of everything. If you're traveling by air, ship ahead. Be prepared to construct unique 'invented yardage' via strip-piecing, fusing, appliquéing combinations of fabrics, in addition to fabrics that work in their original form. Your workshop quilt will be roughly 36" wide on the shortest side [and as long as you'd like it to be] OR you can make the enlargement as big as you want on the shortest side, but still a size that is accomplishable in the time we have.

**MISC:** Will you need/want: beads, buttons, ribbon, Angelina, or \_\_\_\_\_?

**<<WORKSPACE NEEDS>>:**

TABLES: ideally [2] per student /OK: 3 per 2 students

[1] 4' x 8' foam core panel / each student

minimum 48" L-R wall space / each student

Irons and boards

Nearby Kinko's or other copy facility that can make large-format reproductions of the student's design diagrams

[and contact info]

1 table/ Judi + [1] for conferences

1 4' x 8' foam core panel / Judi

Ample electric sources/ machines, irons

black board/chalk or whiteboard/ pens