

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 Supply List for Students:

At first I love to get the supply list for a class I'm taking, since I look at class supply lists as excuses to go buy art supplies, a favorite hobby of mine. But then the panic begins to set in as I worry about having just the right things for class. Here is what I've learned as a teacher and a student: 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.

Class Fee: \$30 for fabric paint and handouts. In addition the fee supplies each student with 2.5 yards of silk organza, 1 yd of cotton organdy, and a 9" x 12" piece of lutradur.

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. Look through your presser foot collection and make sure you pack the big three: feet for straight stitching, free motion quilting, and for satin stitching (zig zag stitch). Make sure your machine is oiled and clean and happy to play with you. End of lecture.
- o Fabric scissors
- o Paper scissors
- o Rotary cutter, gridded ruler, and mat
- o Seam ripper
- o Extra bobbins

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Supply List, Continued

- 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:

- Inexpensive paint brushes – cheap foam brushes are fine (at least 6; the more you bring, the less cleaning in between color applications you'll have to do)
- Small containers for mixing colors (at least 6; recycled yogurt cups or other plastic containers are great; even better with lids)
- Good quality white muslin or broadcloth. You'll use this as a dropcloth for painting the organza. The dropcloths often turn out to be gorgeous fabric you can use as a background for your composition.
- Pressing cloth or parchment paper
- Rags or paper towels for clean up
- Apron

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.