

WORKING IN A SERIES:

Paying Attention and Moving Forward

Class Description:

One thing leads to another, in both your day-to-day life and in your art work. Whether you are a traditional quilter or a quilter who has never employed an historic quilt pattern in your fiber work, there is a joyful flow that happens when you allow one visual idea to seed another.

This class is about taking your work one step further and using your personal imagery to develop a series, but it's equally about learning how to pay attention. How to pay attention to the imagery you generate, to how you generate your ideas, and to how those ideas and imagery develop from quilt to quilt.

How will we get there? We'll execute a quick guided series of small-scale pieces that will reveal how composition, color choices and quilting lines can intensify, clarify, or abstract an image. By paying attention to how we work and what we're drawn to, we'll use the information, ideas, and inspiration from this assigned series to begin the next, more personal one. We'll look at quilts and fiber art by artists who successfully exploit the possibilities of working in a series. Construction techniques will be demonstrated as needed, but the focus of the class will be on how design, composition, and construction choices support the Big Idea – the intent of our art work.

Level: All

Class Supply List for Students:

Class Fee: \$10 to cover handouts and supplies

A quick word about supply lists:

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 in return 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.

Basic Class Supplies:

- #2 pencil, sharpener, and eraser
- Inexpensive sketch book, no smaller than 9" x 12"
- Paper scissors
- 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.
- Xacto Knife with sharp blade
- Tracing paper
- Clear tape and masking tape
- Glue stick

Basic Sewing Supplies:

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

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Supply List, Continued

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.

- Extra needles and bobbins
- Sewing scissors
- Seam ripper
- Rotary cutter, gridded ruler and mat.
- Straight pins

Supplies specific to this class:

- Fabric: As always in a design class, this is the hardest item on the supply list. Since you can't know what you will choose to make before you start, my best advice is to bring as large an assortment of colors and values as you can. Amounts may vary from fat quarters to one yard pieces. It is essential to pack a variety of colors, to vary their saturation, and to bring a range of values. Varying the saturation means some colors need to be clear, pure, and intense, and others should be muddied (think about the difference between orange and terra cotta). Varying the value will yield fabric that ranges from light to dark (think sky blue, color wheel blue and navy).
Pack as much fabric as your upper body strength and suitcases allow. You will be happier. This is one of the times more is better. Or, if you prefer to shop on site, pack what you can and then allow room in your budget to roam the merchant mall.
- Threads to blend with fabrics you've chosen as you piece them
- At least 2 yards of Steam a Seam 2 or other 2-sided fusible.
- It will facilitate our one-on-one discussions if you have these with you:
 - Photos of the quilts you've made that illustrate the work you normally do. Please bring either prints or digital photos shown on your computer, not on your camera or smart phone.
 - Ideas/sketches for quilts you'd like to start in class once we've finished the guided exercises
- 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

Optional:

- Batting: In case you get this far -- keep in mind that we'll be working small, so you won't need much batting.
- Threads to use for surface design on quilt top (hand or machine thread), in case you get this far.