

Elements of Style: Design Basics for Fiber Artists

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CLASS DESCRIPTION

"Simply put, design is the arrangement of visual elements in a space."--Steven Aimone

Two of the most potent visual elements artists have to work with to make their "arrangements in space" are line and color. In this workshop, we'll explore the design and emotional possibilities of line and color through varied, engaging assignments using art supplies with which we're comfortable and adept--fabric, needle, thread, fusible adhesives, and wire. Class exercises and slide presentations will help participants learn to confidently manipulate these basic elements of design, and their inherent meanings, to enrich their own art practices.

SUPPLY FEE: \$10

SUPPLY LIST (please check the second page, too) Don't let the length of this list dismay you. You know you'll be working with a group of like-minded people who'll be willing to share if there's something you've forgotten!

Sewing and Fabric Supplies:

- Sewing machine in good order (oil it and have it serviced before class)
 - Extra needles
 - Bobbins- some empty ones; one wound with white thread, one with black. If you have Bottom Line thread or other high quality bobbin thread, use that. If not, use your normal piecing thread.
 - Straight pins
 - Cutting supplies:
 - Scissors (both paper scissors and fabric scissors)
 - Rotary Cutter (if you have a rotary cutter you use only for paper, pack that as well)
 - Straight edge ruler
 - Mat
 - Thread
 - One spool each of good quality black and white piecing weight thread for the black and white exercises.
 - A variety of other hues and values for the color exercises
 - Fabric
 - Okay, here's the hard one. It's always difficult to figure out which fabrics to bring to a class. Murphy's Law is in action, which means you won't use 75% of what you haul to class, but will need the three pieces of fabric you left at home. Accept this fact and buck up.
- **For the value exercises:**
 - Do you have black and white prints in your fabric stash? If you do, cut 9 x 12 pieces (approximate; close is fine) of all the B&W fabric you have. Be prepared to share. I will bring my stash for the community pot. Note: only B&W prints with no other color added, please.
 - **For the color exercises:**
 - You're going to need a large variety of color and values for the color exercises. You can go on a shopping spree, buying up fat eighths, but I think we can assume that most of you have fabric stashes. Get a good book on tape and go into your studio with your rotary cutter poised; you're going to spend a couple hours cutting 9 x 12 pieces of as many of those pieces of fabric as you can stand to cut. By the way, that size is a ballpark - anything close is fine. Bring as many pieces of fabric, as you can. Be prepared to share with others. I will bring a stash for the communal pot. By the way, the pieces can be solid or patterned, or a mixture of the two.

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If these fabric packing directions make you need to breathe into a paper bag, email me at jdmeyer@teleport.com with questions.

o **For the Black and White Line Exercises:**

Here is some homework: cut these pieces of fabric, batting, and Steam a Seam 2 to size before packing. We'll be able to get more exercises done in class if we're not spending time cutting and preparing.

Solid white cotton broadcloth (or other quilt weight cotton) Buy tightly woven white cloth – test it by laying it on top of black cloth; you don't want the white fabric to be greyed by the black fabric underneath

Precut for class:

6 pieces, each 9 x 12"

1 piece, 11 X 17"

1 piece, 18 X 24"

And bring extra, just in case you want a "do-over"

Solid black cotton broadcloth (or other quilt weight cotton)

Precut for class:

1 piece, 11 x 17"

1 piece, 18 x 24"

And bring extra, just in case you want a "do-over"

Thin batting, suitable for machine quilting, such as Warm and Natural

3 pieces cut to approximately 9 x 12 "

Steam a Seam 2 (if you have a favorite double-sided fabric adhesive you like using, you may substitute; I think SaS2 is the easiest to use for these exercises)

Precut for class:

2 pieces, 11 x 17"

I'd pack an extra yard or so for do-overs.

Other Stuff You'll Need:

- Unlined white paper, such as computer printer paper; about 15 sheets
- #2 Pencil and sharpener
- Thin black marker
- Thick pointed black marker
- Thick wide point black marker
- Large clean brown paper grocery sack (not plastic)
- Tracing paper (don't worry about the size – we can tape small sheets together)
- Tape: Masking tape and clear cellophane tape
- Glue stick
- Uncommon senses: sense of humor, sense of discovery

Optional:

- Teflon sheet for use in fusing
- Extension cord
- Digital camera to test compositions
- Binoculars, reducing glass, or other means to look at your composition and make it appear further away (if you're not bringing a digital camera)
- Chocolate for the break you'll need when you realize you've fused your fabric to your iron by mistake