

## **FACE VALUE**

The **human face** is the most fascinating and instantly recognizable element of our humanity. This is the most important way we have of recognizing friends and strangers. From rock engravings and masks to formal portraits, people have depicted faces for thousands of years. Every day, whether we like it or not, we see our own faces in the mirror.

In this class we look at ways of unraveling the mystique of portraying faces in fabric and thread, while we discover how artists and crafts people all over the world have depicted faces throughout the ages. Students may choose to **piece or appliqué** their work as they discover what characteristics and mood they are trying to depict, from portraits to designs to masks. Emphasis will be on **fusing, appliqué and machine and hand thread work.**

**An ability to draw is NOT required** for this fun approach to observation and free-style appliqué as students layer fabrics to make a quilt portrait.

### **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.

Hand sewing needles: a variety for thick and thin thread, Pins

Embroidery threads for hand sewing, stranded and/or perle threads.

Rotary cutter with sharp blade, cutting mat, plastic rulers of your choice

small sharp scissors for hand work.

Notebook/Journal with your choice of writing materials, Glue stick

Tracing paper, appliqué paper, stabilizer of your choice,

A few sheets of black, gray and white paper for cutting and tearing. Newspaper will also do.

Books or pictures as discussed below

**FABRICS:** A variety of fabrics in colors of your choice in hand-dyed and commercial fabrics, solid colors, subtle and/or strong textural prints, tone-on-tone prints. You may wish to include fabrics with checks or dots. Make sure you have a good range of lights, mediums and darks. Include neutrals, related colors and contrasts. 100% cotton is advisable but you may choose to bring some specialist fabrics like silks or sheers that might add subtle differences and enhance your faces.

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

**PREPARATION:**

In this class we will be looking at faces, so spend time looking at the people around you! Collect images and designs from books, cards and magazines that please you, and bring these to class.

**Become obsessed with faces!**