

Alegre Retreat 2018

Susan Carlson Fabric Images



Fabric Images (all levels)

Create a fabric collage quilt of your own chosen subject using Susan's innovative layering/collage method. Individual design, fabric selection, construction, borders, and quilting will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on the collage piecing process. Patterns or templates will not be used. Instead, students will sketch their design onto a foundation fabric and fill in the design with fabrics of their choice. Susan starts each morning with an hour-long demonstration that will lay out the basics of fabric collage and will give you the information you need to start your work day. She then visits each student in turn to address individual needs and their project's unique challenges.

(Materials fee: none)

Supply List

Fabric in a variety of colors, prints, and sizes. Scraps that you might normally throw away, work as well as larger pieces (fat quarters and up). The more variety the better, fiber content may, and can, vary. Special emphasis on fabrics with prints or patterns in them – especially "organic" shapes such as flowers, leaves, swirls, etc.. Batiks work especially well as there is usually a value range (light to dark) in addition to the overall design. Fabrics by designers such as Kaffe Fassat and Jane Sassaman are also fun to work with. Solid colored fabrics or those with gradual color gradations don't work well in this technique.

Foundation fabric. Any inexpensive neutral colored fabric (like muslin) – a regular weight that you can glue to but light enough so that a photocopied pattern can be seen through it. It should be large enough to more than cover the base of your project. Tulle (bridal illusion) in a variety of colors, especially black and a color or two to match your color scheme – size to match your project.

Aileen's tacky glue (original version) or other water soluble, non-toxic, craft or fabric glue. I like a glue that has some body to it (it won't seep through the fabric easily) and that dries flexible (some white glues are made to dry stiff).

Fabric scissors – different sizes or styles may be helpful. Larger for the straight cuts, smaller for detail cutting. I find those pelican-bladed applique scissors nice for cutting around curves.

Permanent marker, such as a sharpie.

Straight pins.

Optional but Helpful:

Netting and other translucent fabrics – various sizes, colors, weights, and designs to play with.

My book: serendipity quilts: cutting loose fabric collage (will be available in class), presents the cutting loose process.

A phone or digital camera, reducing glass (looks like a magnifying glass), or a peep-hole from a door (find at a hardware store). Any of these will reduce the image you are looking at and allow you to assess how your work is progressing from a different perspective.

Tweezers or stiletto (I don't use them, but many students do and are happy they brought them).

Table lamp.

Foam core board to work on and possibly to transport work-in-progress.

Optional Only:

In a multiple-day class, it is rare that someone gets to the quilting stage, most will still be collaging (I'd be in that group!). So, use your best judgement on how fast you work and how easy it is to travel with your machine. If you really want to, bring it just in case. (Sewing Machine rentals are also available through the Resort).

In which Case, Please Add:

A sewing machine that can be set up for free-motion machine quilting – including the correct presser foot (refer to owner's manual if needed).

Backing fabric to match size.

Thin cotton batting to match size.

Safety pins for basting.

A variety of threads for quilting. I particularly enjoy using rayon, variegated, or other specialty threads.

A rotary cutter, cutting mat, and cutting ruler.

In Case You Need To Draw Or Adapt Your Design:
Tracing paper – "tracing vellum" if possible.

Sharpened pencils or mechanical pencil.

Clear tape (may or may not be needed).

Subject Matter: please email me for pre-approval of the photo or design you wish to use. I also recommend a second design as a "plan b" fallback option.
My email is: susan@susancarlson.com. Additional designs (fish, sun/moon, sea-turtle, gecko) will be available for \$5. See my website for examples susancarlson.com.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please email me at susan@susancarlson.com.
Thanks!

Susan Carlson | susan@susancarlson.com | susancarlson.com

**Alegre Retreat 2018 - For additional information or to register, please call:
970-931-2647 or email: info@alegreretreat.com or katie@katiepm.com**