

# Alegre Retreat 2019

**Kay Khan**

***Quilt Experiments:***

***In Search of Your Creative Edge***



## Quilt Experiments: In Search of Your Creative Edge (all levels)

Creativity is a constant cycle. We play, we edit. In this workshop, you'll experiment and, yes, "play" with ways to build up layers of fabric using quilting, stitching, appliqué, rearranging, deconstructing, and collage.

We'll start every day by making at least two 12" square flat panels of thick quilting. (This is the basic technique I developed that I use in all my work. I quilt first - before stitching any imagery or patterns. This is the opposite of traditional quilting.) These panels are the structure that is like your prepared canvas. They'll be used for our experiments. We'll cut parts out, reconfigure them, and, although in this class we'll be working in two dimensions, we'll start to add three-dimensional elements. Directed exercises will constantly transform the artwork & challenge you! Be forewarned: some of the panels will be completely altered! It'll be interesting and fun, I promise. As you learn new approaches, each of you will begin to use them in an individual project.

Rather than making a finished piece (time forbids!), you will, in this class, discover unexpected combinations and learn new techniques.

*"He played with the idea, and grew willful; tossed it into the air and transformed it; let it escape and recaptured it; made it iridescent with fancy, and winged it with paradox." -Oscar Wilde*

(Materials fee: none)

### Materials List

SEWING MACHINE: it must have a working straight stitch & a good zigzag stitch

AN EXTENSION CORD, if you have one, for the sewing machine

EXTRA BOBBINS FOR YOUR MACHINE: please bring at least 5 if you have them; you'll need them - you'll go through bobbin thread quickly when sewing & so it helps to wind a few at once

NEEDLES: machine [#14 & #16 ("jeans" needles are particularly good for this technique, but any type will do)]

THREAD: basic machine thread in a variety of colors - this will be a decorative as well as necessary element so feel free and imaginative!

FABRIC: a variety of colors of your choice - colors & patterns you like! - You'll probably want some solid colors & some patterned; be sure to bring contrast. Imagine we're painting with the fabrics; they will be our paint & our color palette. Do not limit the colors too much. PLEASE BRING SOME LARGER PIECES (ABOUT A YARD AS YOU'LL BE USING IT FOR THE BASE FABRIC AND FOR APPLIQUÉ), AND MANY SMALL SCRAPS for appliqué and collage. You don't need to bring a lot of yardage of fabric, but do bring a lot of variety for experimenting with color and pattern. I would not recommend that you bring very slippery or extremely textured fabrics (like cable knit) because they can be difficult to sew with the layers we'll be using. SHEER FABRIC OR NETTING - a small piece, about 12" x 12"

FELT: NECESSARY FOR THIS CLASS, at least one yard of synthetic premium felt for the first two days (any width will do). (I personally use black felt (72" wide) because while sewing a little bit of the felt will be pulled up by the sewing needles & will show, but any color will be fine.) For the entire workshop, you'll probably need 2 yards of felt (it really depends on how big you like to work). I can't guarantee that you'll use all the felt in class.

SCISSORS

A PENCIL OR PEN

STRAIGHT PINS

THIMBLE

ROTARY CUTTER & MAT & OMNIGRID OR ANY TRANSPARENT MEASURING TOOL

A VERY SMALL, EASY TO HANDLE PAIR OF PLIERS

PERSONAL IMAGERY OR ITEMS TO WORK INTO THE COLLAGE: these could be paper or text, drawings or printouts, or even small objects

**\*\*OPTIONAL\*\***

SKETCHBOOK: it's always fun to make notes of your ideas & inspiration as you're working.

HAND SEWING NEEDLES [a variety of sizes, including & ESPECIALLY sharps # 7 & #9; it may seem contrary to logic, but the smaller, sharper points will more easily pierce all the layers we'll be using when we're hand stitching]

If you'd like to know more about me, go to:

[www.kaykhanart.com](http://www.kaykhanart.com)

Kay Khan's work is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Art and Design in New York, the De Young Museum in San Francisco, and in many books including, most recently, Textiles: The Art of Mankind by Mary Schoeser and Fiber Art Today by Carol K. Russell.

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**Alegre Retreat 2019 - For additional information or to register, please call:  
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