

Jumpstart Design and Creativity

Learn the basics of good design and explore exercises to unleash the creative process. Bring out your inner artist and learn to apply the principles to making of art quilts.

Each day starts with a different exercise in color and composition. You will work in a 12 inch square format. These exercises can then be the inspiration for a larger piece. Composition with Line and shape will be explored as well as addressing negative space, soft and hard edges, abstraction of realistic inspirations, etc. Critiques of work will be held each evening.

Materials list

Inspirational photographs, a collection of images that you have been saving up as possible idea starters for quilts. either your own images or images from magazines or calendars.

Full value range from very light to very dark (I use 7 values) of fabrics in your chosen color scheme. You can work the whole week with one color scheme to explore it fully or you can bring several color schemes to work with for the different exercises.

possible color schemes - monochromatic, analogous, split complementary, complementary, triadic, analogous plus a complement, or you can choose two warm and a cool and/or two cool and a warm.

several exercises will be quick and fusing will be the best way to do the exercises but if you are going to use one of the exercises as a spin off to start a quilt you can work whatever way you are comfortable with, These fabrics can be fused , raw edge or I can show you how I do turned edge applique.

For the each day class we will do one different design exploration. As stated before you can bring one color scheme to explore all the exercises in or you can bring different color schemes, a different scheme for each exercise. And Yes I know this is a lot to prepare but it will be so worth it and you will discover much about your stash as you search for the fabrics needed, so enjoy the process.

For exercise one

Composition with Line.

Complementary color scheme

4 or more fat quarters or 12 inch squares unfused

Light medium and dark of the two different colors fused, so for example if you chose complementary colors of blue and orange, bring at least one light one medium and one dark of blue and the same of orange. (always nice to have choices so bring more if you can) around 6 by 12 inches of each piece fused.

Exercise two.

Abstracting a photograph, two parts

Inspiration photos to use to inspire abstract designs

Color scheme from light to dark (7 values of each color minimum, I will show you how to sort into the 7 value steps so several of each value is recommended) These colors should not be the same as the photo, using unexpected colors adds to the abstractness. Several 12 ½ inch squares in assorted values for backgrounds unfused, assorted colors and values fused and ready to use. More is always better. One sheet of posterboard

Exercise three

Distorting the Still life

Inspiration photo of still life

Two 13 inch pieces of same solid fabric for background one fused one not.

Full value range of color scheme in smaller pieces (6 x 12") fused

Again the more you bring the more fun you will have

Exercise four

Piecing within a Grid

Inspiration photo of anything that makes your heart sing, fabrics in full value range for the colors in the image. This will be a machine piecing exercise so all fabrics unfused.

Sketch book for ideas and pencil and ruler

Tracing paper

Your preferred Fusable web, rotary cutter and mat and ruler. (I prefer steam a seam two)

Sewing machine and neutral thread set up for straight stitching.

Glue stick