

Tea Bag Revival

Libby Williamson

Alegre Retreat - 2026

Class description and supplies -Appropriate for all levels

The lowly tea bag, when dried and emptied, becomes the foundation for a precious piece of art. Each tea bag will be enhanced with collage using hand-painted papers and fabrics. The addition of free-motion machine sewing and hand stitching will unify your collection of tiny tea bags and, when combined, will become a wondrous art quilt.

Using a variety of mark-making techniques, acrylic paint and ink will be added to fabric and paper, creating a stash of luscious materials.

Realistic or abstract shapes, cut from these materials, are collaged and stitched onto the tea bags. A final composition will be created on a fabric substrate combined with variety of textured fabrics and trims.

We will be working in a format approximately 20" x 30" (The final composition size is optional and your choice.)

Materials/kit fee: \$40 includes:

- Tea Bags (2 dozen- dried, emptied, fused to muslin, and ready to use)
- Additional dried tea bags, Mistyfuse, and muslin for your use
- Background fabrics: White Monk's Cloth & additional textured fabrics, ribbons, and trims
- Canvas: off-white fabric for the backing
- Acrylic felt (in place of batting)
- Assorted fabrics and papers to be painted in class
- Acrylic paints and inks
- Mistyfuse
- Parchment paper
- Matte medium
- Glue
- Embroidery threads and needles
- A selection of painted fabrics and papers (hand-painted by Libby) for your use
- Assorted sewing machine threads for your use
- The shared use of tools: stamps, stencils, texture plates, paint brushes, and additional supplies

Please bring:

Art apron

Fabric and paper scissors (I will have some to share)

Sewing machine with free-motion capability (and a darning or free-motion foot)

Basic sewing machine supplies: pins, seam ripper, bobbins, regular feet

Machine thread (I use black 40wt.) in your choice of colors

Optional Supplies:

Note: Your kit will include all fabrics for your project but you might prefer something different. Additional information regarding optional supplies will be provided before class.

-Fabric for your background. White Monk's Cloth (that can be painted) will be provided in your kit but you may opt for something else.

-Additional fabrics to incorporated into your background. I will provide plenty of textured fabrics and trims for your use.

-Backing fabric of your choice. Paintable natural cotton canvas will be provided.

-Specialty embroidery threads, buttons, beads, or embellishments that you might want to add