

Art Quilt Collage Workshop 2023

with Sarah Ann Smith at Greenville Arms

Supplies and Information

Welcome students! I am so excited to work with you for an entire week sharing with you my arsenal of tricks, tips, and experience. You'll learn my approach to fused, collaged art quilts, to quilting those tops, enjoy a lecture-demo session about how I use textile paints to enhance the tops, and then how I finish them with an absolutely perfect facing.

Please DO WRITE TO ME if you have any questions at sarah@sarahannsmith.com; PLEASE put my email in your approved senders list. If you have a gmail account, check in your spam folder for replies from me--gmail is problematic! You can also check in with me via Facebook messenger (@sarahannsmithq on social media accounts) if you aren't finding an expected reply and we can trouble-shoot from there.

For this week-long immersion experience, I want you to take what you learn and run with it to create your own original art. Think about what you would like to do, then select several photos to use as your guides. The photos should be your own, in the public domain or ones where you have permission from the photographer to use. Please feel free to ask my advice by email--I can point out where lighting is better and other things that will help you on your way.

Your combined kit fee for handouts including color photos and other items mentioned in each section below is \$15. Please pay Sarah during class. Time permitting, if we decide to play with paint, there will be a modest additional supply fee for paints, brushes and so on for those who choose to do so.

Days 1 and 2: learning my collage process and starting on your own piece:

Learn to translate my photo of a flower (pink water lily or orange day lily) into a pattern and construct an enticing fused, collaged quilt top. Along the way you'll learn about design, value, shading, shape, different ways to approach your fused collage shapes, and how to apply my process to your own photos when you get home. You'll begin your flower quilt top in class on Day 1, then that afternoon and on Day 2 continue to work on it or your own composition.

Fabric: tone-on-tone prints with low contrast designs, particularly batiks, work best for me, but bring the fabric *you* love. In this class, you'll create a top about 8x11 or (if you feel confident

about scaling up in size) up to about 12x15. That means you don't need a vast quantity of any given fabric for the class sample—but a reasonably wide selection of prints and textures is good. For your own art piece, bring colors that you believe will suit your subject matter.

For the flower, look closely at the image and bring a range of value (light to dark) in your fabric. You'll also need three to five greens for the background. Look at the proportion of background to the size of flower to figure out how much to bring, but for the class sample a broader selections of smaller chunks will help you more than a half yard of just five fabrics.

For the pink water lily, note that the reflection of the lily in the pond is quite greyed, so try to find a more muted, shaded fabric for the reflection (or we can try a wash of gray paint!). You'll also need a deep dark for the pond; I had a hand-dyed fabric that was somewhat solid with some light areas, which was perfect. If you don't have one perfect fabric, you can use several fabrics together. In the photo, you can see that my cloth is not only green but also brown and burgundy and blue-green! For the lily pads and pond, you'll want a range of medium to dark greens, a bit of yellow and ochre (a yellow-y tan), and possibly a bit of medium-light green for the lighter bits of the water if your pond fabric

For the orange day lily, you don't have to make it orange: I made one that is turquoise, which does NOT exist in nature LOL! Just bring a range of values from light to dark; this image uses light, medium and dark orange (nearly rust/burgundy!), yellow, and a yellow-green. If you want to create a stargazer lily, one that is white and hot pink with freckles, bring whites (white on whites work well here), light-medium and dark pink. Since this is a close-up, you'll use more of the flower colors and less of the background / foliage colors, so bring quantities of fabric accordingly.

You may pre-fuse fabric at home so you have more working time in class or do the fusing in class. I *vastly* prefer Mistyfuse, which can be hard to find so I will have some for sale in class.

Kit includes: 8x10 color photographs printed on heavy paper, clear page protector, and handouts.

You'll need these supplies:

Learning to see/pattern:

- 1. Vis a vis wet-erase or other washable black marker (do NOT use dry-erase), available at Staples/office supply stores
- 2. 5-10 sheets white paper—copy paper works, tracing paper also fine
- 3. Pencil, eraser and pencil sharpener
- 4. Digital camera (optional) if you have one—camera on phone is ideal
- 5. A couple paper towels and a small container for water

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The Quilt Top:

- 6. Fabrics (see discussion above)
- 7. Appliqué non-stick press sheet or 24-30 inches baking parchment (Reynolds brand works best, in the plastic wrap aisle at the grocery store)
- 8. Marking tools such as Chalk pencil/blue pen
- 9. Paper scissors and freezer paper(only if you plan to make pattern pieces)
- 10. Fabric scissors, large and small
- 11. Cutting mat
- 12. 18 mm cutter (optional but encouraged) or other small rotary cutter
- 13. Transfer Paper if you have any --I will bring some for day 1 as part of your kit fee
- 14. Iron—small craft irons are perfect IF ALLOWED at the venue.
- 15. Ironing surface
- 16. Mistyfuse. If you prefer a different brand, you may bring that, but let Sarah show you why she prefers MF. She will have additional packages for sale.
- 17. Optional: a piece of cardboard (a flattened cereal box works perfectly, and you can recycle it at the end of the workshop) or cookie sheet to transport collage to ironing station.

Days 3, 4 and 5:

On days 3 and 4 you will learn and practice my “topographic map” approach to quilting. You will have time to choose to work on the class project or, and I encourage this, develop your own pieces.

How much time you spend on creating a top and how much quilting during the week is totally up to each student. Some students in fact may choose to ONLY work on collaging.. If you prefer to do the quilting on your personal project, to learn and practice the skills please bring a “for practicing” quilt sandwich with a pale solid / nearly solid / cream colored-or-white Top about 12 x 16 or so to implement and practice what you learn before moving to your original artwork.

Quilting:

Sewing Machine

- Sewing machine, in good working order, that can do free-motion quilting (lower or cover feed dogs) AND that you are used to using; do not bring a mini “class” machine—bring what you use to quilt!
- Sewing machine manual (just in case);
- Extension table (if you have one)
- Free-motion quilting foot or darning foot
- Eyeglasses/reading glasses If you need them

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- Batting and backing at least 2 inches larger than your top. If you choose to work on the collage you create on Days 1-2, you'll want at least 13x16" fabric and batting. If you'd rather go straight to your piece
 - NOTE: If you decide to make a much bigger top, add at least 2-4 inches more than your anticipated completed size. How far you get on completing the top depends on your ambition, size, and if you want to work on your own after regular class hours.
- Threads --bring a range of colors and values. I prefer to use 40-wt polyester in the needle and 60-wt (finer) thread in the bobbin, but you may choose whatever brand and fiber you prefer.
 - For my pink water lily, I used five colors ranging from white to pale pink to lipstick pink, with three or four shades of greens.
 - On the day lily, I used a gold-green and four shades from pale yellow to tangerine.
 - If you choose to just work on the learning exercise choose between an egg or a tomato. For the tomato bring 5 or so threads ranging from pale salmon to burgundy and two greens for the stem.
 - If you do the egg, pick five values of a single shade--I used greys (white to charcoal) in the sample you'll see in class, but you can check your thread stash and see which color you already have in a range from light to dark of that particular color.
- Sewing machine needles—For this class, the Topstitch size 14 is the best all-around needle—please have one package of this type of needle (Sarah also will have some for sale)...except! If you sew on a Janome, I encourage the Janome purple-tip needles as they work best for that brand.
- Extra practice sandwich with top, batting and backing about 10 inches square. This is for messing around, practice, testing tension and so on.
- Extra empty bobbins!
- Most of all: A permission slip, written out to yourself, to try this without expecting perfection from yourself on the first try! After all, there aren't very many two-year olds running marathons! Walk first, run second. Then practice! Then practice some more!

Facings:

Sewing Machine

- Sewing machine, in good working order, that can do free-motion quilting (lower or cover feed dogs) AND that you are used to using; do not bring a mini "class" machine—bring what you use to quilt!
- Sewing machine manual (just in case);
- Extension table (if you have one)
- Free-motion quilting foot or darning foot
- Eyeglasses/reading glasses If you need them

Fabric:

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- For this half day session, TWO pieces of fabric about 16 x 12" QUILTED TOGETHER.
Use light colored fabric which will give you about 2 sampler "pages" 8x10 inches. You may also use the "for practicing" sandwiches you created on days 3 and 4 for this purpose. In either case, I recommend that the "back" of the practice sandwich be a light color so you can write notes on what to do, what needs improving and how, on the back of the sample to help you remember later on.
- 1/4 yd. fabric for facings. Please select a solid or nearly solid fabric that will contrast sharply with your mini-quilt (this makes it easier to see what you are doing in class). May be fat quarter or long quarter.

Thread:

- One spool to match your facing fabric, and a bobbin wound in the same color
- Or one spool to match your mini-quilt fabric, and a bobbin wound in a different color if you want your practice sample to be color-coded. You will write notes ON the sample to identify what is needle thread, etc.
- Optional but fun: some pre-fused fabric for a fused border—can be small leftover bits or a long strip.
- Pen to write on your samplers (such as a Pigma Micron, but even a ballpoint will suffice)

For ALL DAYS--OTHER TOOLS and STUFF:

- Rotary Cutter with sharp blade, Rotary cutting mat, and Ruler—at least 12" long and 3 inches wide. Medium-ish sized mat.
- Sewing machine needles—Topstitch or Quilting needles are best—sizes 10, 12 or 14—whatever you have. You may get skipped stitches if you use Universal needles. Our goal is *not* to break any needles, but it happens. Have some just in case (it's like taking an umbrella with you to guarantee it won't rain).
- Scissors, straight pins, thread snips (optional) and
- (sigh) seam ripper:
- Marking pencils: my favorite are the ceramic chalk--various brands make them including SewLine and Bohin. White, but possibly also blue.
- Basting pins (if location permits, you may use basting spray outside of the classroom)
- Machine quilting gloves (optional but encouraged)
- Pen and Paper for taking notes
- Camera (cell phone!) for taking pictures
- A sense of humor ;^}
- Travel mug with lid to protect against spills or water bottle
- Chocolate and caffeine often help <grin>!

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Please feel free to contact me with any questions!

If you emailed me and I haven't replied within 48-72 hours, reach out to me on Facebook. I try to always reply to students ASAP. Sometimes my replies go into your spam folders. Gmail hates me and puts my stuff in spam, so I have to resort to reaching people via Facebook.

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