

## JEANNETTE DeNICOLIS MEYER

### Finding the Flow: *Working toward a series*

Whether you are a traditional quilter or a contemporary quilter, there is a joyful flow that happens when you allow one visual idea to seed the next. We'll see how these seeds sprout into a bounty of related images as we quickly produce a couple of guided series while experimenting with some fun fused exercises. We'll use the information, ideas, and inspiration from these assigned series to begin your next, more personal one. You'll leave with one or two small quilt tops in your new series and a confidence in how one idea leads to a series of quilts.

#### SUPPLY LIST

There are two pages to this list, but don't panic. You have most of these supplies. The list isn't extensive, it's just wordy because I've found over the years that if I explain what the supplies are for it helps you choose the right bits and bobs to bring.

For your information, Empty Spools provides outlet strips, irons and ironing boards to share and a design board for each student. I will provide the fabric needed for your first exercise.

- Sewing machine** - If you haven't used your machine in a while, take it out for a spin before coming to class. You don't want to spend your class time figuring out how to make a bobbin or change your needle position. And you'll notice if it needs servicing or oiling before coming to class – a win/win situation. Pack your instruction booklet and check for your power cord and foot pedal – don't laugh; it's happened! Several times
- Extra needles and bobbins**
- Sewing scissors**
- Paper scissors**
- Rotary cutter** (if you have a rotary cutter dedicated to cutting paper, pack that as well), **gridded ruler** and **mat**.
- Straight pins**
- #2 pencil, sharpener, and eraser**
- Inexpensive sketch book or sheets of paper**
- Tracing paper**
- Clear tape and masking tape**
- Glue stick**
- Fusible Fabric Adhesive (2-sided)** – my favorite brand is Steam-a-Seam 2, but bring whichever brand of two-sided, by-the-yard fusible you prefer. You will need at least a yard and a half.
- Teflon fusing sheet** (or other material to keep the fusible glue off your iron; I use parchment paper)
- A few photos of the quilts you've made** that illustrate the work you normally do. You'll be pinning these up for all to see, so make them as good a reproduction of the actual quilts as you can.
- Digital camera, smart phone** or other tool for viewing your work from a distance. I recommend the digital camera or smart phone, as that will also serve as an archive for your designs-in-progress. If you're bringing your computer or tablet, bring the hardware you need to download the snaps of your in-progress designs to them. Your computer can be a powerful design tool, as you can rotate and crop the in-progress design images quickly on it.
- 4 pieces of white felt or white batting** cut into strips at least 8" wide and 20" long to use for cropping on the design wall.
- Table top light** and multi-plug extension cord with surge protection
- Something to **cover** your work at night

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### Finding the Flow: *Working toward a series*

#### FABRIC

As always in a design class, this is the hardest item on the supply list. I find it's easier for me to select fabric for a class if I know what it will be used for, so I will return the favor here. We will be using small pieces of fabric to explore color contrasts within the guided series exercise. You will also need fabric to work on your own, more personal series. You'll be working small, so you're welcome to use fat quarters. If you have room to pack larger pieces, that's fine too, but if you have to choose, use suitcase space for a greater variety rather than larger hunks.

So as you're piling up your fat quarters, keep these basic instructions in mind:

- **Bring an assortment of colors, intensities, and values.**
- **Bring a big honkin' pile of fat quarters -- or other small-sized pieces; the exact size doesn't matter; the point is, you won't need a great deal of any one piece of fabric, but you will need lots of choices.**

It is essential to pack a variety of colors and to vary the value and saturation of those colors. What do I mean by that?

■ **To vary the color**, think about all the hues around the color wheel. Don't just bring colors from the blue/green side of the wheel.

■ **To vary the intensity**, or saturation, some colors need to be clear, pure, and intense (like the colors you find around the edge of a color wheel), and others should be desaturated or muddied (like the colors you see through the middle of the color wheel). So you might choose both a wowza bright orange and a terra cotta, which are different saturations of the same orange hue.

■ **To vary the value**, look at the saturated and desaturated hues you've chosen, and think of what they'd

look like if they were lighter or darker. For example, the red from the edge of the color wheel might be a pastel pink when it's a lighter value and a burgundy when it's a darker value, and the muddy brown from the middle of the color wheel might be a tan when it's a lighter value.

I find that most people tend to be heavy on one kind of color in their fabric collection, and this will give you a good excuse to look over your stash and notice what you gravitate toward. Do you tend to have mostly light values, or mostly clear colors? You'll need to hunt for some contrasting values and saturations to be able to play well in this class. It also helps if you're willing to trade with fellow students.

#### Optional:

- Extension cord
- If you're driving and have room, bring whatever you need to transform your work space: Your favorite chair, light, portable sewing table. I'm still waiting for someone to bring an automatic espresso machine!
- 1-3 examples of your current art practice (quilt, painting, etc) to share with classmates. DO NOT bring these examples on your phone or computer – it's too hard for the class to see the work. Bring either the actual piece of art or a large (8x10) color photo of it.
- Are you always the first one done with your quilt top in a workshop? Then bring batting, and quilting tools. We'll be working small, so you won't need much batting or fabric for the quilt backs. If you use safety pins to baste your quilts, bring them; if you use a walking foot or darning foot to machine quilt, pack those.
- Threads to use for surface design on quilt top (hand or machine thread)
- Chocolate. I'm sure there's a study somewhere proving that chocolate consumption boosts creativity.

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#### SESSION IV

Sunday to Friday, April 19 – 24, 2020

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