

Empty Spools Seminars

SESSION I: Sunday – Friday, Feb. 25 – March 2, 2018

S U E B E N N E R textile artist

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WORKSHOP: FLORAL ARRANGEMENT: creating fused flower quilts

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LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all levels

SEWING MACHINE USED? Optional (not needed, bring only if machine is easily transported)

DESCRIPTION: Making beautiful flowers, concentric patterns, block design, and experimenting with exotic fabrics are all included in this class. Learn Sue's layered construction technique for cutting, assembling, and arranging flowers as she has done in her extensive Flower Series quilts. This class will give you the opportunity to use gorgeous fabrics and expansive color—plus, the construction method can be applied to other designs. Create a study quilt (about 16"x16"), then move on to a larger, more involved art quilt with surprising complexity and power. (Those who are taking this class a second time can expand on these concepts.)

SUPPLIES TO BRING:

Inspiration

Source materials for flower images, i.e., flower books, your own photographs, seed catalogs, sketches of flowers; color inspiration sources.

Wonder-Under

20-25 yards of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (17" wide) paper-backed fusible web. If you cannot find this brand look for another product that is a paper backed polyester web (*Watch for coupons and discounts on Wonder-Under at JoAnn's*). Soft Fuse is another brand that works well, but you'll need to adjust the amount. Do not bring Heat n' Bond.

Fabrics

Bring an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted constructions with flower images in mind. Remember you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative. Minimum guideline: about 40 different fabrics, a fat quarter of each is fine (minimum size for using this technique, 10" x 18"):

- Bring a range of **values** from **light to dark**, not just mediums. Stretch yourself into brights, tints, tones and shades. Black is good, too.
- Mind-bending color, be bold, but don't forget your neutrals.
- Hand-dyed and painted, large prints, small prints.
- Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester will all work, include some **shiny, funky, silky**, etc.
- Recycled thrift store clothing.
- Sheers like chiffon and organza.
- Fabrics fused for other projects or classes.
- 2 yards of cotton fabric for backs of quilts.

Pre-washing is not required but strongly suggested for ease of use and better fusing.

You can fuse fabric ahead of time to speed up your process in class. You could start by fusing 10-20 pieces of 9" x 17" Wonder-Under to the wrong sides of 10 different fabrics. The Wonder-Under must be cut accurately and squarely. If you are not experienced using fusibles, wait until you get to class. Do not pull the paper off; transport flat or rolled.

Batting

Bring a twin-size cotton quilt batting for the ultimate flexibility. Or, bring at least 3 pieces of cotton batting: 18"x18", 50"x50", and 24"x48" (see portable ironing surface below). To insure consistent results bring only 100% cotton batting such as Quilters Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some battings contain polyester or a scrim of synthetic material that can cause problems like shrinking or dimpling. If Warm 'n' Natural is all you can find, we can deal with the scrim.

Other Supplies

- Portable ironing surface 24" x 24" or larger, **or** another piece of the same batting above, about 24" x 48" (folded in half for 2 layers) and a piece of white or off-white cotton fabric to cover it to make your own ironing/design surface
- Steam Iron
- **Compass** (important for drawing circles), pencils, sharpener (or mechanical pencils), one or two colored pencils, black fine point Sharpie, masking tape
- Scissors: My STRONG suggestion is to bring TWO scissors, one a *small*, 6" long, Easy Action Fiskars with a spring handle. And, two, a regular small scissors without a spring, very sharp. I go back and forth between these two so I alternate my cutting motion a bit. These will be your main flower cutting instruments so be prepared that you will be cutting through fabric and **WU paper** some or most of the time.
- Rotary cutter, gridded cutting mat, gridded plastic ruler (24" best)
- 8½" x 8½" gridded plastic square, if you already have another size that is larger you can bring it instead (Students find this square to be very helpful. I use a template, 8½" x 8½" square cut out of a manila folder, very low tech and cheap.)
- Press cloth of 100% cotton (long staple cotton, like Pima cotton), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18," white is best. If you don't have this kind of cotton, bring any kind of white cotton.
- Teflon press sheet or parchment paper
- Straight pins
- 5 manila folders, about 30 sheets of letter-size paper (makes sorting your cut flowers easier)
- Unless these items are furnished by the workshop: vertical design board or surface, extension cord and outlet strip

Optional

- Digital camera
- Hand wipes to clean pencil graphite off of hands
- Iron cleaning sheets
- Reducing glass or other type of reducing viewer
- Tacking or sealing iron
- Small circle template (like Pickett Circle Master)
- Longer ruler (36-48")
- If you would like to share your work with the class, feel free to bring a quilt or photo to show.

Supplies I will have on Hand: Digital camera and interesting fabric scraps for the class to use.

Please email or call if you have questions about the supply list!

Class Fee: None



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