

Empty Spools Seminars

SESSION V: Friday – Wednesday, April 13-18, 2018

Fabulous Fusible Flowers

Melinda Bula

\$20 kit fee (includes: handouts, pattern for thread play day and the Color Finder tool.)

Before Class

1. Choose your flower picture or photo for inspiration.
2. Your inspiration needs to be a photo of a flower or flowers that you would like to interpret into an art quilt.
3. Edit. This is the hardest part. Narrow your choices down to just one photo. Too many pictures will confuse the brain.
4. Once you have found the photo, it is time to get intimate with your subject matter. How do you get intimate with your photo? Same as you do with a friend. You spend time together and the first step to getting to know your photo intimately is looking closer. Look at your photo at least 2 times a day before you get to class. You may think you are just coming to class to make a flower but you are really learning how to look closer like an artist does, using your right brain.
 - a. Print your inspiration picture on good quality photo paper, size 8"x 10". Try to get the color as close to the original picture as possible. We will use this picture to select our fabric colors. Color is everything! So do not forget the original picture.
 - b. You need to make two more copies of your picture. They need to be printed on 8"x 10" regular white copy paper, not photo paper because we will be drawing on these copies. 1 in color and 1 black and white.
 - c. For you Apple iPad-heads: I am one, too. It's thrilling to see the great color on our iPads but you will still need the printed copies of your photo for class to make your pattern. The iPad does not give us the view we need.
5. Now the fun part of collecting your fabric pallet. This is so important. You cannot make a realistic flower without it. The more fabrics you have the more successful you will be. You do not have to bring yards of each color, just a fat quarter yard will do. However, bring lots of choices in a range of values. Do not just guess - look at your photo to get color ideas. Look for the darkest color in your photo and then the lightest. Squinting helps your eyes see the value better. The fabric can have **patterns** or designs on them but need to read like a blended solid from across the room. We will be going on a field trip to Back Porch Fabrics if you need anything extra.

If you have any problems with editing your photos to making copies, please email me and I will help you. melbula@comcast.net.

Optional Idea- I have 2 beautiful and bold patterns you may want to do if you just want to play with your fabric and not think that hard. My Rose and my Poppy pattern. Let me know if you want to do the pattern and I will email or send you a color chart for picking your fabrics.



Supply List

- Tracing paper 8"x 10", sharp pencils, colored pencils or crayons, bold tip and an ultra-fine tip *Sharpie* marker in black, clear tape, glue stick.
- Large straight pins, rotary cutter, mat, ruler and a table light.
- Small iron with auto shut off and ironing pad.
- Large iron will be provided by the event.
- **Scissors-** Sharp paper and fabric scissors, in a variety of sizes.

- Parchment paper
- Table-top lamp
- Multi-plug extension cord with surge protection
- Something to cover your work space at night
- **Fabrics-** color are choices by analyzing your flower photo before class. Bring at least 30-50 different colors and values of fabric. These can be **fat quarter** yards.

TIP: First look at the darkest colors you see in your photo. Then go to the lightest color almost to white and make sure you bring white. Now go to the medium shades, the medium lights and the medium darks and everything in between. The more colors you bring the more successful you will be.

I will be bringing with me some of my hand dyed fabrics for purchase. And we can do a field trip to the local quilt shop if we need to.

- **Background Fabrics**

You will need 1-2 yards each of assorted background fabrics. How much you will need is determined by the finished size of your flower. Remember, you will have to get the finished quilt under your sewing machine. Look at your photo to determine what colors of fabric to bring. What color do you see in the background of your picture? That is the color or colors you should bring. Bring a couple of choices to play with. I will be helping you with this decision, so do not worry.

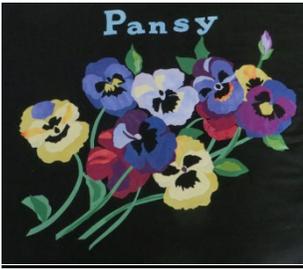
- **Steam-A-Seam 2 lite or regular**

This is the fusible that I use and there is a reason why I use this. Please try to bring the right fusible to class. You will need at least 10-20 yards. **Yes, I said 10-20 yards.** Steam-A-Seam 2 comes in different widths, as well as in packages. Bring what you can find. I will have some in class for you to purchase, if needed.

NOTE: *Steam A Seam* may be hard to find. I have been using in its place *EZ Steam* by Pellon which works great.



Renegade Thread Play Day (optional)



One day will be spent learning my *Renegade Thread Play* technique. We will practice with some simple exercises and then make a simple flower to thread paint. Thread Play day is optional. Therefore, if you want to do the Thread Play Day you need to bring some extra supplies:

- 1 yard of 100% cotton batting like *Quilters Dream*, in their lowest loft, called *Request*.
- 1 yard of black fabric
- 2 yards of Steam a Seam 2
- Pick your favorite Pansy colors. Then bring 6 colors ranging in values and 2 greens size can be just scraps. We will be using my *pansy* pattern. You can also use the colors you bring for your big flower. This works great for the Pansy's

Sewing machines

This is for Thread Play Day. This is also optional.

Please have your sewing machine in good working order before you come to class. Please know how to work your sewing machine before you come to class. Bring extra bobbins, basic tools for your machine, manual, and the extension table.

If you are flying in, there will be machines to rent. Contact the event to reserve your machine.

Sulky Rayon 30 Weight Thread

I use this thread because it is thicker than most threads. It is sometimes hard to find but you can get it at <http://www.uncommonthreads.com> or www.speedstich.com.

While you may not get far enough in class to use this thread on your flower, we will be doing a sample project in class. I will be bringing thread for you to play with. You can also use whatever thread you like.

Sewing machine needles

Jeans Denim 80/12 or 90/14, *Top Stitch* 80/12 or 90/14

Quilting gloves

These help when we are doing the free motion thread play. There are many different gloves and finger cots on the market. Bring what you like.

Free motion foot or closed toe-darning foot for your sewing machine.

Medium size safety pins

To hold your quilt sandwich together while we do our *Renegade Thread Play*. Any questions please email me at melbula@comcast.net.