

JULIA SCHEFFELIN GRAVES

Amazing Abstracts

Create an abstract quilt that has amazing movement and drama, using the techniques pioneered by Ursula Kern. Go from inspiration to a simple sketch, then have fun “coloring” your sketch with bits of fabric to create a mock-up of your design – see before you sew! The design is gridded and blocks are foundation pieced using an easy sew and flip method with room for creativity and improvisation. Lots of discussion of design principles and how to use color and value to create the drama and desired effects.

SUPPLY LIST

- Paper to write on and draw on (with lines and without – just a few pieces)
- Sturdy paper to glue on (large index cards – 4x6 or 5x7 or card stock – just a few pieces)
- Pencil, eraser, fine tip Sharpie
- Scissors for paper and fabric
- Glue-stick or double-sided tape to use with the sturdy paper to create your mock-up. An easier but more expensive option is Grafix doubletack mounting film, available from dickblick.com.
- Freezer paper or parchment paper, at least 12” by 12” (to cover any sticky spots on your mockup)
- Long thin ruler for drawing lines with Sharpie
- Square rotary cutter ruler – at least 8” square
- Rotary cutter with new blade, mat
- Pictures for inspiration – color schemes, design ideas, etc.
- 2-3 clear plastic document protector sleeves (8 ½” x 11”)
- Sewing machine and supplies (machine, power cord, foot pedal, needles, feet, bobbins, neutral thread – gray or beige, extension cord)
- Tweezers (optional)
- Table-top light with a multi-plug extension cord
- Something to cover your work at night
- Portable pressing surface and iron (optional)
- Color wheel (optional; instructor may have these for sale)

FABRIC SUPPLIES

- 1 yard foundation fabric (muslin, or white/cream fabric without pattern, as sometimes the foundation shadows through light colored fabric). This is enough for a small wall hanging.
- Fabrics in at least 2-3 colors for your chosen color scheme in a full range of value (light, medium and dark), plus lots of neutrals (white, cream, beige, brown, gray, black&white and black). Variety is better than yardage. Long narrow scraps work well (1-3” wide and 6”-12” long, but don’t trim if you have larger pieces). Think tone-on-tone blenders vs multiple colored fabrics, though fabrics that have just the colors of your color scheme can also work well.
- Extra fabrics – if you have room, throw in small pieces of fabric in a wide variety of values and colors so you have more choices
- Avant-garde fabrics – the foundation piecing method lends itself to using fabrics that are not traditional quilting cotton, such as silks, drapery fabric, polyesters, etc. So – if you want to be adventurous, have at it! A woven fabric is easier to sew with than non-woven, such as knits. Use a ½” seam allowances vs the traditional ¼”.

If you are using an inspiration photo, look closely at all the colors in the photo and bring fabrics in all the colors. The color effect of a photo is often driven by the colors that hide in the background as much as by the bright colors that pop.



SESSION 5

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