

SUE BENNER

textile artist

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WORKSHOP TITLE: SEWING THE LAND I and II: fused, collaged, and quilted landscapes

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LENGTH: 4-5 days

LEVEL: all

SEWING MACHINE USED? Optional—most people do not use their machine (You can quilt later).

DESCRIPTION: Each participant will create one or two landscape quilts along with several small studies. The class will explore different approaches to representing landscape, including those of artists in a variety of media. Sue will then show students how to look at the landscape, analyze it, and translate it to fabric using several fused construction methods to help them each accomplish their goals. For those that are taking this workshop for the second time, a more ambitious project can be pursued.

Sue began making landscape images from raw edges, selvages, and other odds and ends from scrap bags. From there she has gone on to add other techniques and develop a large series of work inspired by wetlands and prairies in her childhood home state of Wisconsin.

Previous students have told Sue that this workshop changed the way they saw the land.

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

FUSIBLE- 15-30 yards (the faster you work, the more you bring) of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (WU is 17" wide). Buying a whole bolt is the easiest thing to do (that's 20 yards). *Watch for sales on Wonder-Under. I have bought it for half price at JoAnn's.* Soft Fuse is a good product and is 18" or 37" wide (adjust amount as necessary) and can be ordered online. Misty Fuse is also a good product, but please bring a roll of parchment paper to use with it as it does not come with paper. Yes, you can use the Steam a Seam 2 Lite especially if you already have it and you like working with it. I don't care for it but that's me. Do not bring Heat'n'Bond.

FABRIC - an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted constructions. Remember that you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative. Have fun with this! **If you want to interpret your landscape with realistic colors, keep that in mind when choosing your fabrics.** Or, you can use totally **crazy, unrealistic color.** About 30-40 different fabrics, fat quarter (or like) size is fine:

Please include some or all of the following:

- Bring a range of **values** from **light to dark**, not just mediums. Stretch yourself into brights, tints, tones and shades. Black is good, too, but near blacks are even better. Enhance your colors beyond what you see in your landscape. Take the basic palette and then push it some, or a lot.
- Hand-dyed and painted fabrics, and batiks (all create wonderful effects in landscapes).

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SESSION 3

Sunday to Friday, March 16 – 21, 2025

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- A few students have brought batik “jelly rolls” for use in class. This provided a large selection of fabrics in a wide range of color and value. These can be fused by lining them up on Wonder-Under with the tiniest bit of overlap. The can then be ironed to the fusible and brought in sheet or cut apart. Another possibility is to bring a bundle/skein of sari strips. These are very narrow but can offer a variety of silks in different colors.
- Solids, near solids, large prints, small prints.
- Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester will all work, please include some shiny, funky, silky, etc.
- Recycled thrift store clothing.
- Sheers like chiffon and organza.
- Fabrics you have fused for other projects or classes.
- Please note, if you don't want to buy any fabric for this class, don't, just bring what you have...it will be fine.
- Scraps of all sorts, especially long strips, selvages, ribbons, raw edges, etc., with or without Wonder-Under on them. **Hint: Start saving these scraps now for your landscape class!**

Pre-washing is not required, but I usually almost always do, including the recycled clothing. Fabrics will fuse better. You can fuse fabric before the class, if you like. This would greatly speed up your process in class. You could start with fusing a 8-12" length of Wonder-Under (17" wide) to a grouping of 20 or so different fabrics. Or, you can fuse fabric scraps. Do not pull paper off, and be sure to transport flat or rolled.

BACKING FABRIC- 2-3 yards cotton backing fabric (fabric for the back side of your quilt).

BATTING- twin size or larger cotton batting **or** four pieces of batting, approximately 24" x 48" minimum (don't CUT these sizes, just bring equivalent in pieces). To insure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter's Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batting contains polyester or a scrim that can cause problems, like dimpling or warping (Warm 'N Natural has such a scrim. If it is all you can get, we can deal with it.);

IRONING SURFACE FABRIC- 1 yard of white 100% cotton fabric. Part of the above cotton batting and this cotton fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table. If the tables at the workshop are vinyl or another type of plastic and might warp, please bring a towel or extra batting to pad your table and keep the heat from penetrating to the surface; alternatively, you may bring a pre-made portable ironing surface about 24" x 24."

INSPIRATION PHOTOS- 4-10 photographs of landscapes to translate into quilts. (You will need 3 for small studies and 4x6 is fine for this purpose. 8x10 or larger would be nice for larger quilt projects.); 2-3 reproductions of painted landscapes from artists you particularly like or an entire book of an artist who does landscapes. Prints are easier to work from than a photo on your phone/iPad/computer. If you have any detail photos from the scene, they can help with depicting the flora or geological structures.

Note: I will teach a very simple way of enlarging a composition using a grid. But if you know what you want to work on for your larger project(s) and you are unsure of your drawing skills, please go to a copy shop and enlarge it either as a photo or line drawing to the final size (maybe 24" on the longest side, black and white print on inexpensive paper is fine). Most people do NOT come with a full-scale enlargement, but it can be helpful.



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OPTIONAL, but HELPFUL SUPPLIES:

- press cloth of 100% cotton long staple cotton (like Pima), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18," white color best. If you don't have any Pima, don't go out and buy any, just bring another pre-washed white cotton instead;
- a finished quilt or portfolio to share with the class;
- digital camera (highly suggested);
- about 3 manila folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- tacking or sealing iron like Hobbico brand; unscented iron cleaner sheet;
- portable light, bed risers (Bed, Bath, and Beyond) or the like for raising up table;
- X-acto knife (helpful to cut intricate designs);
- tweezers
- a sewing machine is not required (and is truly OPTIONAL!) and you can spend the entire class designing if you like. If you do bring your machine, please bring basic supplies for free-motion quilting.

SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND: digital camera, a limited amount of Wonder-Under, and interesting fabric scraps to share.

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

CLASS FEE: none



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