

SUE BENNER

textile artist

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WORKSHOP TITLE: COMPOSITION QUARTET: four techniques for fused quilts

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LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all

SEWING MACHINE USED? Optional—most people do not use their machines in class, but you can bring your machine if you like.

DESCRIPTION:

A quartet of quilts! Challenge yourself compositionally and learn four different ways to construct fused quilts: squares/rectangles, curvilinear/organic design, cut-and-collage, and landscape. Using step-by-step directions with many creative options, you'll make 4 quilts (about 16" x 20" or larger) using Sue's fusible techniques. She will also cover fusible basics, working with non-traditional fabrics, quilting, blocking, and binding. By the end of this workshop experience, construction ideas will abound!

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:

-PHOTO INSPIRATION or source material: 1) a few photographs of landscapes to choose from and translate into a quilt, 2) an inspiration for curvilinear design, for example, a photo or artwork with lots of curves like a Georgia O'Keeffe flower painting 3) any other inspirational material you might want to bring.

- FUSIBLE- 20-25 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. Do not bring Heat'n'Bond.

- FABRIC!!!! Bring 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. The fabrics should be a **variety of solids, near solids, small prints, large prints, plaids, etc., with a wide range of VALUE and color.** Have fun with this! Keep in mind that you will be making a landscape if you want to use realistic colors. Please include some or all of the following:

- silk of all kinds, cotton, rayon, polyester
- batiks, hand-painted and dyed fabrics are great;
- a few sheers such as tulle, net, organza (poly or silk), chiffon (poly or silk)
- fun, fun fabrics, possibly recycled from thrift store clothes--washed
- you can bring fabric that you have already fused for other quilts, or
- if you like to get a head start, fuse 10 fabrics, an area about 17" x 9" (do not pull off paper, transport flat or rolled
- Don't sweat the fabric choice too much. We can make almost anything work. If I were to suggest a minimum of fabric, about 40 different fat quarters would do.



SESSION 4

Friday to Wednesday, March 21 – 26, 2025

Mail: 1669 Hollenbeck Ave #344, Sunnyvale CA 94087-5402 | Phone: 925-222-5509

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*Pre-washing is not required, but I almost always do, including the recycled clothing and anything that I think is prone to bleed. **Also, your fabrics will fuse better if you pre-wash them.***

- 2 yards or more cotton backing fabric (fabric for the back side of the quilt);
- BATTING: one twin-size cotton batting (If you want to use up smaller pieces of batting, please bring 6 pieces about 24" x 24" or larger.). To ensure consistent results only bring 100% cotton batting such as Quilter's Dream Cotton or Fairfield Soft Touch. Some batting contains polyester or another synthetic 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.);
- Teflon press sheet; parchment paper (Reynolds white smart-grid is good), both are useful;
- straight pins, masking tape;
- steam iron;
- 1 yard of 100% cotton fabric in a solid color, preferably white (this is a "junker" fabric, just an ironing surface). Part of the cotton batting and this cotton fabric will be used to create an ironing/design surface on your work table;
- sharp scissors (one large, one small), cutting mat, rotary cutter (a large and very small, 18mm, would be ideal), and gridded ruler (24" x 6" good), gridded square (6 ½ or larger);
- extension cord, outlet strip, and design wall unless furnished by class.
- one or two soft-lead pencils (2HB Ticonderoga good), two soft-lead, colored pencils (like Prismacolor), or your best approximation of these pencils:
- 12 pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper.

OPTIONAL, but HELPFUL SUPPLIES:

- press cloth of white long-staple/low-lint 100% cotton, like Pima Cotton
- tweezers;
- a quilt to show the class;
- camera/phone camera, highly suggested;
- about 5 manila folders or gallon plastic bags for storing fused scraps;
- old blouses or other clothing to add to class stash, silks are great, but cotton, rayon and polyester are welcome;
- tacking or sealing iron (brand name, Hobbico); iron cleaning sheets (for a fusing slip-up);
- portable sewing light;
- X-acto knife (helpful to cut intricate designs);
- a sewing machine is not required, but you may bring it if you have the room with appropriate other supplies.

SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND: a pile of recycled and thrifted fabric scraps to share.

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