

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

‘The true mystery of the world is in the visible not the invisible’

Oscar Wilde

Learn to **look** at frequently unseen beauty, patterns and possibilities in the details of the world around us. Examine the basic forms of the natural and man-made world, then **simplify** these forms and maybe repeat them.

Possible design sources include

1. Natural organic forms such as:

Animal: minute details of feathers, hair, skin, eyes, shells, horns, fish scales, wings, coral, etc.

vegetable: consider the close-up beauty of flowers, stamens, seeds, leaves, pollen, tree rings, bark, roots, fruit and vegetable cross-sections (like oranges and cabbages), seaweed.

mineral: There is plenty to be found in rocks, stones, crystals, soil particles, agate, diamonds, metal ores, etc.

2. Structured/designed forms

man made: constructions, architecture, buildings, vehicles, engines, machines, tools, utensils, artifacts, furniture, textiles (weaving, lace, knitting, quilts, etc), writing and communication systems (print, maps, plans, signage, etc).

Choose a detail, study it closely, **simplify** and then consider how you will put it into a composition.

Composition is a method of structuring used to organize the component parts of a whole image to make it work visually

You may choose to use

- 1) Repeat blocks of uniform or varied size in a grid
- 2) The grid can be changes in various ways
- 3) The motif or design can be changed in various ways
- 4) The motif can be used alone or combined with another design or block in a portrait or landscape format
- 5) Medallion format
- 6) Consider changing the entire shape
- 7) Add surface embellishments

COMPOSITION AND PATTERN-MAKING

This can be **symmetrical, asymmetrical, geometric, rectilinear, curvilinear** or **organic**. You may use **shape, space, contrast, line, color, texture** and **pattern** to make sure you have a **focal point, accents** and **balance**.

You may want to **simplify into a grid** as a starting point.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- Sewing machine; cleaned, oiled and in good working order. Bring manual and knee lift (if your machine has one).
- Whatever feet you have for your machine. You may not use them all but have them there in case.
- Machine needles. Universal (Schmetz 80) for regular sewing, Schmetz Metallica for metallic threads, Schmetz embroidery. Optional: twin needles.
- Thread. Usually neutral sewing thread. I prefer mercerized cotton.
- Optional specialist threads (metallic, embroidery, etc).
- Extension cord with appropriate adaptor/multiplug.
- Pins
- Rotary cutter with sharp blade, cutting mat
- Plastic rulers of your choice
- **Optional:** Desk lamp
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- **Optional:** Tracing paper, appliqué paper, stabilizer
- Books or pictures as discussed below.

FABRICS: a variety of fabrics in colors of your choice that include the following: Hand-dyes and commercial fabrics in solid colors, subtle and/or strong textural prints. Make sure you have a range of lights, mediums and darks. Include neutrals, related colors and contrasts. 100% cotton is advisable, but you may choose to include some specialist fabrics like silk or sheers.

Remember the greater the choice you have the more exciting the possibilities for your quilt

PREPARATION:

In this class we will be **enlarging and reducing details**, so spend some time looking at the details of the world around you e.g. the texture of rocks and stones, the thorns or veins on leaves, edges and joins in building structures, plans and maps, type-face, handwriting, foodstuffs, etc., etc.

Even tiny portions of your own quilts could be used. The secret is to **LOOK**. Find pictures in magazines or books that inspire you, or even look like vague possibilities. Start designing possible blocks or quilts and bring these to class with any books or pictures you have found, but come with an open mind and be prepared to change it!