

Pamela Allen—Lecture: September 15, 2009

Workshop 9/16/09 (Wednesday)

North Salem Ambulance Corps.

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Supply List

MY QUILT- MY RULES~A class in freeform fabric art

The main focus of this workshop is to venture outside the conventional methods of quiltmaking into an open ended approach to **ART MAKING** with fabric. Many of the techniques, of course, are familiar to art quilters.... piecing, appliqué (in this case raw edged appliqué) and hand embellishing. But the actual techniques used will be the servant of the imagery and concept, rather than the tyrant dictating what is or is not acceptable. No measuring, no matching points, no bias binding, and no squaring up until the end! We therefore will develop a fabric collage by freehand scissor cutting, layering of different fabrics, mixing unlikely combinations of fabrics, exploring three dimensional effects by means of rolled or stuffed fabric...many and **ANY** other means to achieve an interesting work of art. The class will sandwich the quilt **BEFORE** proceeding with appliqué and perhaps before the design is fully realized. Some interesting embellishments ideas will be explored as well. Students will therefore be able to complete a spectacular small quilt during the course of the class.

Materials

- *Fat quarters or any fabric suitable for backing a small quilt
- *A selection scrap fabrics all types, all colors, prints and plains...don't forget recycled clothing, a great source for interesting and varied fabrics!
- *Glue stick, spray basting or other spray adhesive (optional). Safety mask
- *Wonder Under fine fusible in lieu of spray
- *Selection of embroidery floss...lots of colors! Thread of your choice
- *Scissors, beading, embroidery and darning sized needles, thimble, and other basic sewing regalia
- *Polyester batting suitable in size for small quilt. Cotton is okay too.
- *Sewing machine optional, but this method can be done quite nicely **WITHOUT** a machine except for the final quilting.
- *Embellishments of all kinds. This means thinking about unlikely but interesting additions such as found objects, manufactured items and hand made items such as copper tooled shapes, etc. There is always a way of attaching such items either by drilling small holes or by capturing the shape with floss. Of course more conventional beads, buttons, lace etc. is also useful.

We begin by choosing a background fabric (about 24" x 24") we will work small so we can finish our quilt during the workshop. Select a number of prints and plains that have potential to provide variety, color harmony and interesting shape possibilities. Arrange your composition and when you are satisfied, adhere all the elements to the background. Remember that this image can be added to or altered during any stage of the development.

Cut batting about 1" larger than the top and spray baste to top. Choose a background fabric 2" larger than the top and spray baste to bottom.

Begin hand stitching (raw edged appliqué) the various pieces through all thicknesses except the very back. Reserve the back for the beginning and ending knots of the hand stitching. I use ½ split embroidery floss and either a ladder stitch or zigzag to attach the fabrics. Choose embroidery colors that complement or contrast the fabric. You are now ready to machine quilt.... think of designs that complement the image but keep it freehand and whimsical.