

## Collage Workshop Supplies and Information for fabric choices

You will need to purchase a pattern from the instructor the day of the workshop. Cash or check only. \$15

I will be giving you enough foundation fabric for your project, as it can be difficult to source.

You will be receiving a booklet about collage from the instructor which is yours to take home. There will also be a brief audio/visual presentation to help you understand the concepts involved.

Small, SHARP, curved scissors

Medium SHARP straight scissors

**Glass** head pins...REQUIRED! You are going to need quite a few of them.

2-3 yards of Steam a Seam light II. I prefer Steam a Seam as it can be easily repositioned and is less stiff and more easily quilted. You will be unhappy if you substitute,

Elmer's **School Glue** stick

Aileen's Tacky Glue in a bottle. (You can share with a friend)

A handful of coffee stir sticks or small sticks to use to spread glue.

Sharpie Markers in large size and small size. Black is okay, unless you wish to use mostly white/pale fabrics. If so, please choose a light pink or other pale color that you are able to see on a white background. Some of you MAY be able to trace with a pencil, but if you have vision problems, go with the Sharpie.

Cell phone with a Camera, or a digital camera...required!

Pen/pencil/paper

Lunch sized paper bags for garbage/scrap

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A double layer of batting large enough to cover your entire project. The finished size is 30 x 30.

Parchment paper for ironing.

Painter's tape

Large mat

**If you are very quick, you may have some time to sew down your background. If so, please bring:**

Ruler

Rotary cutter

Sewing Machine in working order, foot pedal and cord.

Aurifil piecing thread/bobbin

\* If you tend to be a "rabbit," bring batting and backing and we'll do some free motion quilting. Threads in various colors to match your work are required. For free motion quilting, you will need a topstitch needle in your machine....and possibly extras, as you sometimes break them.

**FABRIC:** Do NOT spray starch fabrics before use.

Background fabric:

1/4" yard for the sewing machine "table"

7/8" yard for the backdrop

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You may choose to use multiple fabrics for these purposes. Simply bring enough fabric to equal the amounts above. Remember that you want the sewing machine to “shine,” so consider using low volume fabrics, at least for the backdrop.

For the machine collage:

2-3 yards Steam a Seam II LIGHT

Assorted floral, geometric or botanical prints in a color palette of your choice. You will need the equivalent of about a yard. Make sure you have large, medium and small prints in your selections. We are going to be cutting motifs from the fabrics, so make sure there are motifs to cut.

2 fat quarters of the “main” color for your machine. These may read solid, or be solid, but it’s fun to have slightly different, SMALL prints for each. Grunge fabrics also work for this purpose.

HINT: Bring more fabrics than you think you will need. You may change your mind mid collage....it happens! Having more options is a lot more fun than not having enough!

### PICKING FABRICS:

Decide on your basic color palette. Do you love reds? Blues? Greens?

Now select some colors on either side of that on the color wheel, and some directly ACROSS from your favorites on the color wheel. The more color the better! If you have a jazzy fabric piece you adore, then replicate the colors in it. Easy-peasy. Please be aware that these quilts are happiest with strong colors.

**Make sure that you have different VALUE...from dark to medium to light. If they are all the same value, there will be no movement or life**

**in your quilt.** So, if blue is your thing, you need a medium, a light and a dark blue. You cannot bring a piece to life without different values.

Buy a VARIETY of different fabrics. What type? I use this rule of thumb:

You need some fabrics that play well as a supporting cast to flesh out your “skeleton.” They need to have pattern and movement, but a smaller scale. Batiks, polka dots, swirled or marbled fabrics and ombre prints are especially good for this. It will be very hard to be successful without some of these fabrics in your “kit.”

You need to think about where the shadows might be on your design as you pick these fabrics. Remember, things in the forefront appear lighter, the background darker.

The foreground of your work will be made out of fabrics that aren't as “shy” : Flowers, paisley designs, and prints that have medium scale natural shapes such as leaves, feathers, animals or abstract geometric designs . Again, these designs must have light, medium and dark elements. You are going to be cutting around these elements and reassembling them into your design.

**DO NOT BE AFRAID OF LARGE PRINTS!** These can be cut and used as a single element, or fussy cut into parts. Make **SURE** you have several of these! You will **NOT** like your finished project without them.

Haul out the “WOW” fabrics. A few really large flowers or other elements that really sing will make the difference between a great quilt and a so-so one. Do you love squirrels? Owls? Butterflies? Get a fabric that has some repeated element and use it several times within your composition for a bit of fun! You'll be happy that you did!

**You may bring bits of things to embellish your project.** I used actual, heavy weight thread on my sample.

**Backgrounds:**

These compositions work especially well on low volume backgrounds...you want your main composition to be the star...but don't be afraid to add a bit of "Zip" in the way of an unexpected element...or two!

### **How much fabric should I bring?**

More than you think. Bring any scraps you think might work, but you need at least fat quarters of your main fabrics. If there's an especially fetching fabric or one you are basing your color palette on...bring a 1/2 yard cut. I can guarantee that this will not be your last collage. It's addictive.

### **Embellishment:**

You can embellish to your heart's content with crystals or beads AFTER the quilt is stitched down.

You MUST bring something to take a digital picture. You need to get perspective on your work, and nothing is as good as a camera/phone.

**Make sure you bring your sense of adventure, your excitement, and an open mind. YOU are the artist!**

All we are doing is:

Cutting fabric

Placing and pinning fabric

Tacking fabric

Glueing fabric

Quilting.

**YOU CAN DO THIS!**

Just a gentle reminder on "Retreat Etiquette:" Please be aware that some students may be thrilled to have pictures of them/their project shared on social media, but others may not. Always ask permission before taking or posting photos as a consideration to your fellow students. And yes, you may take any pictures you like of me or my work.

**General Supplies for your consideration:**

Sewing Machine, foot pedal, and cords

Extension Cord

Threads and extra bobbins

Needles

Scissors

Rotary cutter and blades

mat

Pincushion and pins

Seam ripper

A chair cushion if you need one.

Cell phone and charger

Battery operated Ott light or sewing light if you use/require one.

Comfy, layered clothes.

An extra sweater or sweatshirt

A personal fan if you have personal summers!

Comfy shoes.

Glasses...and then extra glasses!

Snacks if you so desire.

A notebook to take notes.

A small basket or large ziplock bag for your supplies and/or scraps

A pool noodle to take home your project. A bath towel will also work if you can't find a pool noodle.