

Quiltmaking 101 Online class with Annie Smith

This class is an exercise in discovery and you will learn a great deal about quilting; what you like and do not like, and a LOT of quilter's tricks. We will make a Sampler quilt, using the book "Quilts, Quilts, Quilts", which, I feel, is the definitive book on quilting.

A Sampler quilt is one made up of different blocks, rather than using one block all over the quilt. The quilt starts out with the most simple block and each block after that will focus on a different technique, which makes this the perfect class to learn a variety of quilting techniques.

In this sampler, we will make nine 12" blocks, twenty-four 6" blocks, and two 6x12" blocks. Please don't let the number of blocks daunt you, it is the equivalent of sixteen 12" blocks -- and, we will have time to complete the entire quilt in this time period.

The first night of class, you will not need anything on this supply list except for your book, "Quilts! Quilts!! Quilts!!!", and some paper and a pen to take notes. I will send you the Class outline (so you know what we will do in each of the classes) and an Inventory sheet that lists all of the blocks we will make in this class. You will then have a week to gather the first materials and notions you'll need for the class.

Supply list:

- The SECOND edition of "Quilts, Quilts, Quilts" book by Diana McClun and Laura Nownes - Every one needs this book for class. It's really important that you get the SECOND edition - as the first and third editions don't have the information in them that the second edition has. There is a photo of the book on my website where you got the information on the class - and I have a limited supply available in my online store. If you get your copy online, please take the time to ask the person you buy it from if it says 'SECOND EDITION' on the cover. If they give you a vague answer, like "I think so", move on - they should be able to put the book in their hands prior to shipping it, to confirm the edition. Please read as much of this book as you can prior to class. This is possibly the best book ever written about quilting, its' tools and techniques. You will want to use a highlighter and Sharpie in your book - to take notes and highlight things that are important for you to remember. We will use the pens for each class, so keep them handy.
- Sewing machine, cleaned and oiled - refer to the owner's manual to do it yourself - with a new needle (I use Schmetz Microtex 80/12 needles, Schmetz Universal 80/12 will work too)
- Wind three bobbins with neutral thread

Fabrics:

We will discuss how to choose these in Class One.

- 1 yard of FOCUS FABRIC that has a good assortment of colors in it
- SIX additional 1/4 yard pieces (or fat quarters) of complimentary fabrics chosen from your Focus Fabric palette, -- make sure that your supporting fabrics are light to dark - if you're confused about this, don't worry about it. I'll explain it all in class. With this sampler, the more fabrics you use, the more interesting it will be. You will need to add more fabric as the class progresses for things like sky, house textures and fabrics that you will see that you identify as being a nice addition to your quilt. Don't feel intimidated and think that you have to get all of your fabric at once. This quilt works best when you add things as you go along, if you need some advice on fabric choices, take a photo and send them to me in an email and I will assist you.

*****Don't buy fabric that you think you'll want to use for the borders. That is one of the last purchases we make in this class. The reason is that as you make each block, your quilt will evolve as it goes. If you purchase several yards of fabric that you think you'll use for the borders before you begin the quilt, it will most likely be absolutely wrong for the quilt by the time you get to the end. Our quilts take on a life of their own at a certain point and begin to tell us what it is that it needs next. You will want to follow that, to make your quilt the very best it can be.*****

Quilter's General Rule of Thumb: There is no such thing as "too much fabric". Collect whatever you have that you think that you MAY want to use.

Notions: *I'm going to cover all of these notions in Class One. I'll show them to you, explain why we need them and tell you where to find them for the best price. I'll also tell you which notions will be in your kit so you don't have to try and find them.*

- Rotary cutter and mat board (if you can't remember when the last time was that you changed your blade, have a replacement, for Lesson #2)
- 6x12" or 6 1/2" x 12" ruler for rotary cutting

You can use an 8 1/2" ruler also. A 24" ruler will be too long for the majority of the blocks we will make, but you can use it, too. I like Omnigrid rulers, Quilters Select, and Creative Grid rulers.

- paper scissors
- Scissors for cutting fabric only
- glue sticks (these are the office supply type, like Dennison or Avery, not the kind that go inside a glue gun. Also, please get the permanent type of glue stick, not the temporary or Post-it glue type – it will never stick, even for a short amount of time!)
- paper and pen for note taking and applique
- a hand-sewing needle
- neutral thread for piecing (50 weight cotton thread – gray or beige) I prefer Aurifil brand thread.
- we will match threads to the fabrics for the hand applique portion – you won't need them until then
- template plastic
- ball head pins
- Clover Fork pins in the aqua box #240 (do not get the Bohin brand pins – they are too long and too thick)
- seam ripper
- cloth measuring tape
- Two fine line permanent marking pen: Sharpie and a Micron Pigma pen
- Spray Starch

Remember, *I'm going to talk about all these things the first night of class, so you don't have to go run out and get them as soon as you see the supply list.*

Any questions? Email me at annie@anniesmith.net or leave me a text at 408-706-6487. *I'm probably in a different time zone that you so please TEXT, do not call.*