

Shades of the Forest

Class Description

A forest is often filled with a play of light as the sun filters through to some areas and leaves others in mysterious gloomy shade. A way of recreating this dappled sunshine backdrop is to tile a background in a variation of colors. The addition of detailed trees, branches and leaves in the foreground adds perspective and interest. The tiled background is created by fusing small squares or rectangles. Consideration of the season and type of trees will be important design elements. Background colors could range from the stunning autumn tones of reds, browns, oranges and gold, to the new crisp greens of spring to the grey and white tones of the stark bleak winter. Participants will design their own wall hanging working from a photos, sketch or picture. Fusing, fabric painting, free motion stitching, bobbin work and quilting techniques will be included. This workshop is suitable for new and experienced quilters with patterns and suitable hand dyed fabrics available in class.

Materials

Please bring photos of a forest for inspiration. Make sure you include a sketch or photo of a close up of branches and leaves.

Sewing Machine in good working order, machine manual, tools and accessories including a darning foot and walking foot. An open toed embroidery foot would also be very useful.

Pen and notebook

Pencil, eraser, sticky tape, black medium felt tipped marker (e.g. Sharpie)

Large sheet of white paper - needs to be at least as big as proposed quilt size.

Rotary cutter, patchwork ruler, cutting board, optional small square (6 ½ or 4 ½ inches)

Pins

1 metre (yard) of Freezer Paper

1 metre (yard) of Wide Steam A Seam 2 Lite

1 metre (yard) of Wonder Under fusible web

Thread to blend with background and foreground fabrics.

Size 80 and 90 top stitch needles

Scissors (both fabric and paper), Quick unpick, tweezers

Applique mat or baking paper

Batting – A little bigger than proposed quilt size. (Yes, we need this on the first day of class) Suggest cotton, wool or any other thin batting. If not sure of size I would suggest 100cms by 75 cms

Fabric

Background

1. To create your backdrop, choose a multi-colored fabric or a range of fabrics that mimic the colors and textures in the background of your forest. You can use a collection of fabrics or one multi-colored commercial fabric or dyed fabric. 6 Far quarters or one metre (yard) of multicoloured fabric should be sufficient.

Foreground branches and leaves- Choose fabrics to match your foreground details. Small scraps will be suitable for leaves. Allow a metre of fabric for the trunks or branches. Alternatively, you can paint the branches on white fabric. Bring a metre (yard) of white cotton fabric and I will provide the paint and brushes.

Backing fabric – The same size as batting

There will be suitable hand dyed fabrics available in the classroom.