

design by nature

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

'The true mystery of the world is in the visible not the invisible'

Oscar Wilde

In this class we will **look** at beauty, **patterns and possibilities** in the natural world around us. Using these as a basic design source, simplifying and maybe repeating them, we will make rich and exciting individual quilt tops them.

We will not be making realistic copies of what we see, but discovering how to turn them into a simplified or abstract repeat design.

The design sources and possibilities are endless and 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 or water plants

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

Emphasis in this class will be on looking, simplifying, design and composition with special reference to color, line, shape and texture.

PREPARATION

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, water drops, etc.

The secret is to **LOOK and become excited by what you see**. Find pictures in magazines or books that inspire you, or even look like vague possibilities for quilt design. Start designing possible blocks or quilts and bring these to class with any books, pictures or any natural objects you have found, but **come with an open mind and be prepared to change it!**

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Sewing machine; cleaned, oiled and in good working order. Bring manual and knee lift (if you 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, fusible of your choice, stabilizer

Books or pictures as discussed below.

FABRICS: a variety of fabrics in **colors of your choice**. Include the following:

Of course you can base your color choice on the exciting natural objects or pictures you have found. You need to 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