



MADELINE ISLAND SCHOOL of the ARTS

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Denyse Schmidt

Materials List

Creative Confidence: Improvisational Patchwork

Tools and Supplies

You'll need your preferred sewing tools and supplies including:

Sewing machine, thread, fabric scissors, rotary cutter, gridded ruler and cutting mat, pins, and any other sewing supplies you like to use. Large foam insulation boards (about 4 x 8 foot) are provided as design walls, you may wish to bring a piece of flannel to cover it for a more uniform work surface.

MISA will provide ironing boards and a few irons. They also provide sewing machines to rent for \$100 per machine, please contact them directly for details.

Fabrics to Bring

As with most of my improvisational workshops, how much fabric you'll need for our retreat will depend in part on the pace at which you work. Please don't feel like you have to bring so much fabric that it's a burden to pack or carry. You can always make do with whatever you have with you, and I believe that we often do our best work when we have limitations.

Please approach this week's work with a two-color mind-set: one color for your "ground" and one color for your letters. Quilting cottons are ideal, but I encourage you to think beyond the usual choices if desired - cast-off clothing of all materials, scraps, old sheets, etc.

You may limit yourself to two fabrics if you wish, and in that case I would advise bringing 4-5 yards of your "ground" fabric, and 1-1/2-2 yards of your "letter" fabric, which is enough for a throw/twin size quilt top.* I am interested in getting you to focus on structural variations, not surface variations, and that is easiest to do with solids, or fabrics that "read" solid such as very small regular prints, or chambrays. For these primary "buckets" of fabrics, you can bring: two different solids, a solid and a print, a solid and a yarn dye (stripe or plaid), or whatever makes you excited to experiment!

Another option is to bring a range of fabrics for one or both of those two "buckets". If you choose this approach, please keep the range of fabrics in any bucket similar in hue and/or value - ie: cream/white/pale yellow for your ground, and navy/black/dark grey/forest green for your letters for example. These fabrics can be a combination of prints/yarn dyes/solids, but please bring a good proportion of fabric that is solid in appearance. I would increase



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your total yardage slightly for this approach, by about a half yard for each bucket total. If you want to bring additional fabrics to supplement your choices or to have more options, feel free. I'll be providing some fabric for exercises so you don't deplete your stash.

* If you know you tend to work fast and free, you might want to bring a little more than this estimate.