

SUE BENNER

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WORKSHOP: FLORAL ARRANGEMENT: creating fused flower (and sunflower) quilts

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LENGTH: 5 days

LEVEL: all levels

SEWING MACHINE USED? Optional (not needed for main workshop content)

DESCRIPTION: Making beautiful flowers, intricate concentric patterns, block design, and experimenting with unusual fabrics are all included in this class. Learn Sue's layered construction technique for cutting, assembling, and arranging flowers as she has done in her extensive Flower and Sunflower Series quilts.

To learn the basic techniques, you will first create a flower study quilt (about 16"x16"). You can then move on to a larger, more involved flower (or sunflower) quilt of your own choosing. You will gain confidence in your drawing and design skills as you interpret and adapt different types of flowers and petals for your designs. This class will give you the opportunity to use gorgeous fabrics and expansive colors. (Those who are taking this class a second time can expand on these concepts.)

SUPPLIES TO BRING:

Inspiration

Source materials for flower images, i.e., flower books, your own photographs, seed catalogs, sketches of flowers; color inspiration sources. Printed photos are more helpful than just having them on your phone. Sue will also provide samples, drawings, and source materials.

Wonder-Under

12-15 yards of Pellon Wonder-Under 805 (17" wide) **paper-backed** fusible web. If you cannot find this brand or have another you would prefer to use, be sure it is a paper-backed fusible web. For example, Soft Fuse works well, but you'll need to adjust the amount depending on the width of the product. MistyFuse does not come with paper and is not as useful for this workshop. Do not bring Heat n' Bond.

Fabrics

Bring an assortment of fabrics for the top of your quilted constructions with flower images in mind. Remember you can fuse fabrics that you can't piece, so be creative with your choices.

Since you will be making at least two quilts, think in terms of two sets of fabrics: one for the first study project, and a second set for the larger project. If you want to make a sunflower quilt, I will provide instructions for a 12" x 60" Sunflower "Runner" as one of your options. These blocks will be cut to 12½" square so plan accordingly.

Set 1: 6-10 fabrics, fat quarter each for 8½" blocks.

Set 2: 7-15 fabrics, fat quarter each 8½" blocks, or, if you want to do larger 12½" blocks, ½ yard each.

Choose your fabrics from among these suggestions. Bring a range of **values** from **light to dark**, not just mediums. Stretch yourself into brights, tints, tones and shades. Black is good, too.

- Hand-dyed and painted, large prints, small prints. Batiks are always good!
- **Cotton, silk, linen, rayon, and polyester** will all work, include some **shiny, funky, silky**, etc.
- Recycled thrift store clothing.
- Sheers like chiffon and organza.
- Fabrics fused for other projects or classes.
- 2 yards of cotton fabric for backs of quilts.

Pre-washing is not required but strongly suggested for ease of use and better fusing.

You can fuse fabric ahead of time to speed up your process in class. Cut Wonder-Under into 6- 10" x 17" pieces (WU is 17" wide). The Wonder-Under must be cut accurately and squarely. Fuse to the wrong side of 6 different fabrics and cut out about 1/4 " beyond edge of WU. This will be the minimum for the first project. IF you are planning to make larger blocks for second project, cut 7 pieces of Wonder-Under 17"x26" and fuse to backs of 7 different fabrics. If you are not experienced using fusibles, or unsure of your fabric choices, wait until you get to class. Do not pull the paper off; transport flat or rolled.

Batting

Bring a twin-size cotton quilt batting for the ultimate flexibility. Or, bring at least 3 pieces of cotton batting: 18"x18", 60"x60", and 24"x48" (see portable ironing surface below). To ensure consistent results bring only 100% cotton batting such as Quilters Dream Cotton. Some battings contain polyester or a scrim of synthetic material that can cause problems like shrinking or dimpling.

Other Supplies

- Portable ironing surface 24" x 24" or larger, **or** another piece of the same batting above, about 24" x 48" (folded in half for 2 layers) and a piece of white or off-white cotton fabric to cover it to make your own ironing/design surface
- Steam Iron
- **Compass** (important for drawing circles), pencils, sharpener (or mechanical pencils), one or two colored pencils like Prismacolor, black fine point Sharpie, masking tape
- Scissors: My STRONG suggestion is to bring at least TWO scissors, one a *small*, 6" long, Easy Action Fiskars with a spring handle. And, two, a regular small scissors without a spring, very sharp. I go back and forth between these two so I alternate my cutting motion a bit. These will be your main flower cutting instruments so be prepared that you will be cutting through fabric and WU **paper** some or most of the time. A standard scissors is helpful, too.
- Rotary cutter, gridded cutting mat, gridded plastic ruler (24" best)
- 8½" x 8½" or 12½" x 12½" gridded plastic square, if you already have another size that is larger you can bring it instead (Students find this square to be very helpful. I use a template, 8½" x 8½" square cut out of a manila folder, very low tech and cheap.)
- Press cloth of 100% cotton (long staple cotton, like Pima cotton), pre-washed, approximately 18" x 18," white is best. If you don't have this kind of cotton, bring any kind of white cotton.
- Teflon press sheet or partial roll of parchment paper
- Straight pins
- 5 manila folders, about 30 sheets of letter-size paper (makes sorting your cut flowers easier)
- Unless these items are furnished by the workshop: vertical design board or surface, extension cord and outlet strip

Optional

- Digital camera/phone camera
- Hand wipes to clean pencil graphite off hands
- Iron cleaning sheets
- Tacking or sealing iron
- Small circle template (like Pickett Circle Master)
- Longer ruler (36-48")
- If you would like to share your work with the class, feel free to bring a quilt or photo to show.

Supplies I will have on Hand: Interesting and unusual fabric scraps for the class to use.
Please email or call if you have questions about the supply list! **Class Fee:** None