

Instructor

Ann P Shaw

Email

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Experience Level

Confident Beginner

Sewing Machine Required

Yes



Course Overview

Flowers have been an enduring source of inspiration for quilters; many traditional quilt blocks feature flower patterns. With a remarkable array of shapes and colors, flowers spark our creativity and can be found everywhere – formal gardens, your backyard and growing wild in the forest.. Based on the design and piecing techniques of Ruth McDowell, these flower designs take traditional patchwork a step further through the use of unexpected fabric choices. Join us in celebrating the beauty of flowers. A brief discussion introduces the design method. You will then prepare a freezer paper template for your flower pattern and begin the process of selecting fabrics for your design. We will also discuss sewing methods and sewing order to complete your wallhanging.

Required Supplies

Pattern: Select one of the flower patterns available for this class. Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

Fabrics:

You will see that my patterns combine a wide selection of fabrics that enhance the look of the quilt. The image (such as a chicken, flower or bird) will use anywhere from 6-15 different fabrics, mostly in small pieces. Some fabrics will be repeated in the quilt, others may appear only once. The backgrounds will also typically feature 3-6 different fabrics that have a similar look. In some instances we will be looking for specific features in a patterned fabric — for example something that suggests the shape of an eye, or feathers, or fur or a stem. Patterned fabrics with multiple colors add texture and dimension to the quilt. We will be playing with different combinations to see how these fabrics look next to each other. Having lots of patterned fabric choices from which to choose is part of the creative process for these quilts and helps bring these designs to life. It's the seemingly odd combinations of fabrics that bring texture and depth to your quilts, and

will work well.

BRING LOTS!! Lots and lots of patterned fabric. A fat quarter or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Bring your largish patterned fabric scraps (though the strips found in jelly rolls are often too narrow). I routinely pull 50 or more fabric choices from my stash for the main subject of my quilts and additional fabric choices for the background. Having a wide variety of fabric choices to key to this style. When choosing colors, keep in mind that a red poppy will also have bits of orange and yellow, and perhaps hints of purple and gold and green in it, so look for fabrics that have hints of other colors. BRING YOUR STASH!! However, note that we will NOT BE USING solid or tone-on-tone fabrics that “read” as solids. A broad selection of fat quarters (printed fabric).

Large prints, medium prints, small prints, batiks, plaids, stripes, prints with many colors, bold fabrics as well as pastels — I pull them all. Each different kind of print will add something different to the overall look of the quilt. Look for printed fabrics where the print clearly contrasts with the background.

Before class, visit my website and spend some time looking at the range of patterned fabrics used in my quilts to get an idea of what to bring. www.AnnShawQuilting.com

Also look at Ruth McDowell’s website to look at the fabrics she uses in her gorgeous quilts. www.RuthBMcDowell.com

For Freezer Paper Template:

** Freezer paper

** Pencils/Eraser/Pencil Sharpener

Ruler (18” plastic is ideal)

Paper Scissors

** Blue Masking Tape

** Sharpie brand Ultra Fine-line permanent marker (Black only!)

** First Aid Cloth Tape

** Highlighters (several colors)

** Color pencils (7 distinct colors for making tick marks)

(NOTE: Ink pens, Gel pens, Sharpie Markers or Crayons will not work for tic marks)

** Design Wall: Bring to class a foam design board (30"x40" or larger). They are inexpensive and can be found at your local office supply store. (Three 20"x30" foam boards that we'll tape together will also work.) You will be pinning your Master Design and template pieces to this as you audition individual fabric selections. Its then easy to carry your project home.

I will have a few foam boards available.

Note: Using a piece of batting or flannel alone does not work well – please bring foam board if at all possible.

Sewing Supplies:

Rotary cutter, 14" or 18" rotary cutting ruler and cutting mat

Pins (LOTS!! Pincushion overflowing with 200+ pins!! 1" ball head pins or longer are ideal)

Fabric scissors

Basic sewing kit

** Several Ziploc bags (quart and gallon size)

** Paper and Pencil to take notes

** **Supplies not carried by The Stitchin' Post**

Sewing machine and Supplies: (bobbins thread, needles etc).

Depending on the pattern you choose, you may or may not reach the point of beginning to sew your design together. Most students will be completing fabric selections and some may begin sewing by the second day of the workshop. If you bring along your sewing machine, leave it in your car initially. You should be comfortable using your machine. Before coming, check to be sure that it is in good working order.

Optional Supplies

Optional Supplies: Digital Camera

If you have a small digital pocket camera, bring it!

Using the camera on your phone or tablet will work as well to audition fabric selections.

Required Book or Pattern

Pattern: Select one of the flower patterns available for this class.

Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

