

From Photo To Fabric

Supply list (2 pages) (revised 09/14/24)

Instructor: Helene Knott 503-888-9784 Email: helene.m.knott@gmail.com

Website: www.heleneknott.com

From Photo to Fabric: An Introduction to Landscape Quilt Design: It is quite gratifying to create your own landscape quilt featuring a favorite place or photo of a lovely vacation spot. This class is aimed at those who are interested in exploring a basic approach to designing landscape quilts. For a preliminary project the landscape quilt your design should be small to medium (no wider than 34”), and utilize fusing techniques for speed and efficiency. The focus of the class will be on creating a working pattern from a photograph then using fabrics creatively to get marvelous effects. Please follow the recommendations given for choosing a suitable landscape picture for your quilt. Drawing skills, though helpful, are not necessary for this class.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Read the list carefully and contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions about any of the products.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

Tools/materials:

- **Picture:** For your first project, I recommend using a photo that is large enough to clearly see the various details that will be necessary for your design. For the best results, look for photos that are composed of clearly defined ‘layers’ of features as these will be easier to translate into workable templates. Make a color print of your picture that measures about 8”x 10” and if from a digital source, make sure the resolution is high enough that the image does not get grainy or deteriorate in the process of enlargement. If you do not have a photo you took yourself you can find some copyright-free scenic images on some government websites like the National Parks system or the USGS; Wiki-Commons is another good source. The best choices for a picture will have clearly defined elements that are not too busy or full of small fussy details that may be difficult to reproduce. It is best to avoid pictures with human or animal subjects unless you plan to edit them out or simplify them into a silhouette. It may be wise to bring a few alternate choices. Once you finish drafting up a working design, you will have it enlarged at a copy shop for a bigger quilt; however, I strongly recommend not making it too large. A scenic panel ranging from 18”-34” would be best. NOTE: the overall quilt can be made larger by the addition of borders.
- **Plastic sheet protectors:** These measure 8 ½” x 11” and are available at office supply stores fairly inexpensively. They will work for photos up to 8 ½” x 11”. If your photo is larger than that, you will need to buy clear transparency acetate on a roll from an art supply store which is more expensive and harder to find so try and stick with a picture no larger than a sheet protector if possible. Bring several of these sheet protectors.
- **Post It™ or drafting tape (optional):** If using a photo in a book, you will have to secure the transparent film to the page, using ‘Post It’ tape or drafting tape will insure you can do so without damaging the book. ‘Post It’ tape (manufactured by 3M) is available at some office supply stores and drafting tape from art supply stores.
- **Black ‘Sharpie’ brand permanent marker:** Make sure you buy the ‘Sharpie’ brand not a Pigma as the Sharpie will draw on plastic without beading up or leaving a line that rubs off after the ink is dry. Buy one with the Ultra-fine tip.
- **Tracing Paper (optional):** You may find it easier to transfer your design onto a sheet of tracing paper, particularly if you intend to enlarge your working copy.
- **Fabrics:** Selection and amounts will vary according to the picture you choose and the size. Fat quarters or half yards of each fabric should be more than enough depending on the size you make your quilt, though even scraps may be sufficient for some parts. It’s a good idea to have several choices for each element you will need. For suggestions on the types of fabrics you might use, go to <http://heleneknott.com/pdf/01.pdf> and look for my free downloadable fabric selection guide. Help will be provided during the first class in selecting appropriate fabrics. Help in choosing your fabric will be provided in the first class. **You should pre-wash all your fabrics as most fusible products adhere better to fabrics that have been pre-washed, do not starch them after washing.**

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- **Muslin or non-woven interfacing:** Each quilt will be sewn on or fused to a base of some sort. Non-woven interfacing will be lighter than muslin but either will work. The size will vary depending on the size your scenic panel will be. Bring enough to fit the size of quilt you intend to make. **Like the other fabrics, this too needs to be pre-washed for good adhesion.**
- **Sewing machine (optional):** The projects will be fused in the class and can have borders added and be quilted or embellished with additional machine stitching at a later date therefore, a sewing machine is optional for the class. Your machine, if you use it, will not be needed until the second class.
- **Rotary cutter, mat and cutting ruler (optional):** a 4"x12", 3"x 18" or similar sized ruler and mat for squaring and trimming finished panel and/or cutting borders.
- **Fusible web:** A product designated as 'Lite', that has one layer of paper is recommended however any fusible product that utilizes a paper base may be used. Avoid products that are simply the adhesive web without a paper base as they will be harder to mark and cut your pattern pieces from. Remember to bring the instructions, fusing procedures vary between products. The amount needed will vary depending on the size of quilt you are making but 1 yard for smaller and 2 yards for larger quilts will probably be enough. Make sure the fusible product is fresh or has been sealed airtight, these adhesives do not age gracefully and may fail to bond properly if old and dried out.
- **Regular drawing pencil and a good eraser**
- **Teflon pressing sheet:** to protect the iron and ironing board from adhesive.
- **Scissors:** Remember you will be cutting through paper and fusible webbing adhered to fabric so bring a pair of scissors you don't mind using for these products. Make sure they are sharp and fine-jawed enough to cut out fine detail. A pair of stork style embroidery scissors would be perfect.
- **Light table:** I will bring a couple to share but you can work faster if you have your own
- **Thread:** Only if you are intending to actually sew in the class. Bring thread suitable for your intended use (appliqué, piecing, satin stitching...)

