

The Green Man or Nature Goddess Collage

Supply List (2 pages) (revised 04-29-25)

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The Green Man is iconic in many ancient cultures but is most often associated with Celtic lore and mythology. He is Mother Nature's male equivalent and consort, portrayed as a virile male whose flowing and facial hair are represented by leaves and botanical elements. Sometimes he bears antlers; in some imagery, birds may nest in his bounteous foliage. For this project, you will create your own Green Man or Nature Goddess, starting with a base facial image and embellishing it with botanical elements, fussy-cut from nature and botanical fabric prints. Ultimately, the fabric collage will need to be finished with stitching. In class, we will focus on composing and fusing the collage, so a sewing machine is optional unless you wish to stitch/quilt as you go.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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:

- **Sewing Machine – OPTIONAL:** Some people like to stitch fused pieces in place as they compose a collage, others prefer to wait and stitch the whole composition at the end. If you would like to stitch as you add pieces to your collage, then bring your machine, you can always leave it in your car until you need it. Make sure it has a free motion foot, the swirling contoured stitching you may want to do is faster with a free motion presser foot.
- **Fabric Base Panel (and optional borders):** You will collage your Green Man or Nature Goddess onto a fabric panel that is best kept at about 12” x 14”. The size is somewhat flexible but should not be much larger than that. You can add borders to that center panel if desired, and I find it’s a good way to frame the work and add visual interest by overlapping some of the botanical elements into those borders (see my sample above). For the fabric base, choose a subtle print or visual printed texture that supports the concept of Nature. Something subtly botanical – a texture like wood-grain, tree bark, or one of the Stonehenge by Northcott fabrics would be excellent choices. You might even find a landscape print with a forested backdrop, but remember that you will be adding collage elements (many of them botanical and green or autumn colored) so aim for the panel to provide a good contrast to those botanical prints. NOTE: An alternative to a backdrop fabric can be to find a ‘face forward’ classical Male or Female portrait that you can print onto a sheet of pre-treated fabric that can go through your printer. I have a few such images and you can contact me for a pre-printed face if you wish (for a nominal fee to cover the treated fabric and ink used to print it).
- **Other ‘collage’ fabrics:** Most of these will be floral and botanical prints, and some more solid colored fabrics like tans, browns, and greens. The green man is often displayed with greenish or woodsy brown skin and often has horns, antlers, or branches emerging from his head. Look for some suitable Fauna as well as the flora. You might find birds or wildlife perched on his antlers, or nesting in his beard. Keep scale in mind, leaves and flowers should range from about 1” to 4” but not much larger or smaller. Birds

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should be large enough to look natural but not too big, about 2” – 4” tall is ideal. Another type of fabrics that work well are the arabesque prints in Victorian or Jacobean style. Fat quarters of several prints would probably be enough. I will have some botanical fabrics to share, but bring as much of your choices as you can, especially if you wish to control the color selections.

- **Fusible web:** You will be adding multiple layers of collage so choose a very light adhesive. Something like Gentle Fuse (by Maywood), or OESD Soft Web would be ideal. It’s easier to back a Fat Quarter with a solid sheet of fusible web and then cut out the individual elements you want instead of trying to cut and apply adhesive to isolated motifs, so you will probably need a couple of yards of web.
- **Fabric Glue stick – OPTIONAL:** You may wish to use a fabric glue stick instead of fusible web to tack collage motifs in place while you stitch. There are a number of brands dedicated to use on fabric that are acid-free and will not harm the fabrics. This method works best if you plan to stitch as you go. **Note:** if you bring a glue stick, bring some sheets of recycled paper or newsprint so you can spread the glue without getting it on the classroom tables.
- **Regular Straight Pins:** It can help to pin collage elements in place to preview them prior to fusing them down, once fused, you will not be able to move or re-position them.
- **Quilters’ chalk pencils:** to mark temporary designs or guidelines on complex botanical elements.
- **Craft scissors:** A pair with nice tapered points to cut fine details. Bring a pair you do not mind using on adhesive covered fabrics.
- **Thread:** If you choose to stitch as you go, you will need thread. Choose colors that coordinate with your fabric choices.
- **Batting and Backing:** Depending on your speed and confidence, you may complete your collage and be ready to begin quilting it. If you choose to stitch as you go, layering the panel as you collage and stitch will also complete quite a bit of the quilting as you work. Cut the batting and backing slightly larger than you intend to make your quilt.

Below are examples of two Nature Goddess Collages created by students, assembled on a classical portrait printed on fabric.

