

Suitable For Framing

Supply list (2 pages)

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Is it art or is it a quilt? For many people, the difference is the frame. Take a quilt or a quilt top, put it in a frame, and now even a gallery will call it Art. In this class, you will learn how to make a scenic photograph into a piece of stitched 'Art' suitable for framing. This is not a quilt; there is no batting or backing, and the sewing can range from simple securing stitches to free-motion machine embroidery – if you want to explore embellishing with your machine. The results are stunningly beautiful, and the technique is surprisingly easy. The method is well within the reach of a confident beginner, and you do not need to have drawing or art skills to do this, just basic free-motion stitching skills and a joy in working with scraps of fabric to make something exquisitely beautiful. And I do mean scraps. These lovely little landscapes are made of bits and pieces. You can bring your own scraps if you wish, or scavenge through my Bits & Pieces bin to find what you need for your picture. If you don't feel confident in assembling your own choices, I will have kits available.

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

CHOOSING SUITABLE PICTURES: For the easiest construction, the images in the original picture should be clearly definable as 'layers' such as sky, background mountains, rolling foothills, forested ridges, grassy meadows, sandy or rocky plains... avoid scenes that are excessively busy with lots of intervening details unless you are interested in doing some detailed embellishing with stitching. Classical art prints like Japanese landscapes or impressionist landscape paintings and even Dover books line art are also suitable for this project. Look to my samples for ideas on suitable pictures.

Tools/materials:

- **Original picture:** this can be a picture from a wall calendar; a photo printed from a computer, or an enlargement of a scenic photo taken by you. For the best results, stick with a picture printed to anywhere from 4" x 6" to 8½" x 11", or a calendar picture cropped and trimmed to that size. The subject matter can be photographed scenery or landscape paintings by classical artists. If you don't have your own photos, there are some good online sources for free images at the end of this supply list. The original picture needs to be the actual size you wish the finished piece to be and should be printed on heavy card or index stock, ordinary paper does not hold up well to all the stitching. **DO NOT USE GLOSSY PHOTO STOCK!** It does not work well for this. Though you can, and probably will, simplify the picture, it is best to pick an image that isn't too busy or filled with too many tiny details crucial to the image. You may want to bring a few different pictures for alternate choices. **Please note that your original print will be destroyed in the construction process so do not use any originals you don't want to sacrifice.** Also note that the image will appear reversed on the finished fabric picture so avoid images where this would be a problem, flop the picture when printing if you wish it to appear right sided or accept the reversed results.
- **Fabrics:** A variety of fabric scraps in suitable colors/prints to go with your image, 8" – 10" pieces and smaller. These need not be 100% cotton; misty semi-transparent clouds can be beautifully rendered in silk organza. Depending upon how complex your original is and how much of the detail you would like to reproduce, you may need lots of variety. Batiks are a good choice due to their range of colors and textures. Study your picture and look for prints that have colors and textures that can represent the objects in your image. Let your imagination go wild. If you are a scrap saver, bring your stash, even tiny

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scraps are usable. To get an idea what kind of fabrics I use in my landscapes, log on to my website www.heleneknott.com and check out my free downloadable landscape fabric selection guide.

- **Stabilizer:** medium weight embroidery stabilizer. This will be necessary if you are planning to do a lot of stitched embellishment.
- **‘Pigma’ or ‘Sharpie’ brand black micron tipped pen**
- **Sewing machine with a free motion presser foot:** You will need a free motion foot for this technique.
- **Extra bobbins:** you will need a variety of different colored threads in the bobbin so bring as many empty bobbins as possible otherwise you will waste thread stripping the bobbin for each new color.
- **Extra sewing machine needles:** stitching through heavy paper tends to dull needles quickly; it’s advisable to have extra needles on hand. Size 12 -14 machine quilting or topstitching needles will be fine unless you plan to use metallic or specialty threads in which case, bring needles appropriate for those materials.
- **Thread:** as you will be working on your own unique picture, it is hard to predict exactly how many and what colors you will need. An exact match of thread to your fabric isn’t necessary but it would be good to have thread in a range of suitable colors for your picture and fabrics. Use your picture as a guide taking into account any machine embroidery embellishment you may wish to do. For example; you may wish to render a tree or clouds in your postcard with stitching instead of fabric (as shown at right) so make sure you have appropriate thread for this as well as for stitching your fabrics.
- **Scissors:** fine-jawed embroidery scissors with 1 ½” blades are **crucial** for trimming the small pieces after they are sewn. Larger fabric shears will not work well for the fine snipping you will be doing. A pair of utility shears is also recommended for trimming paper and stabilizer.
- **Glue stick (optional):** the office supply kind.
- **Pins:** standard sewing pins.
- **Optional Kits:** There will be kits available for purchase for \$15 each. Kits include the photo, fabrics, stabilizer, and some threads.



Sources for copyright free photos: These sites have varying policies regarding the free use of their images, please read and respect their copyright rules.

<https://www.freestockphotos.com/>

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http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/imagebase.html

<https://www.usgs.gov/products/multimedia-gallery/images>

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