

# Fused Art Quilts From Photographs

## Supply list and Preparation Instructions

With Sandra Mollon

**Description:** Students select a photograph they wish to work from, get it enlarged and trace a pattern from which to work. Another option is use any pattern by Sandra, which may be appropriate for beginning students who do not have an image they want to use.



Students will select appropriate fabrics to use, which are then fused into place, enhanced with media, and quilted to create an art quilt.

### **Getting Started:**

If you are working from your own photograph, be sure you have selected one to use that you would enjoy making, with clear details (good resolution), and a subject that would be interesting. If you are a beginner, I recommend a simple subject. If you are unsure about your image and want advice please email the photo at least 3 weeks in advance to me. Please limit the number of images you send to your 2 favorites. Use the email address below:

[smollon@pacbell.net](mailto:smollon@pacbell.net)

If you are using someone else's photo, you should get permission from them before you start. I often will get that in writing before I begin, as I usually enter my quilts in large shows, which may require a written permission.

Once you have selected your photo, you will need to print out the photo in color in whatever size you want the finished quilt to be. For this workshop I recommend that it be no larger than 36" on a side. I am doing most of my large printing at

**VistaPrint.com.** I have used **Blockposters.com**—the website has step by step instructions to enlarging your picture and printing it out on copy paper in blocks. When printed you can trim and tape the individual sheets together in the finished size you selected.

You should also print a good copy of the photography on photo paper (about 8 x 10" is fine), as a reference photo to have nearby. Sometimes when I am working on the enlargement, I need to refer back to the original to verify the details.

To use your time wisely in class, you may decide to do some tracing ahead of the event. To do that trace what lines and shapes of the image that you can see that are important to the design, and that outline value and color changes, be sure the tracing is done on the paper side of the freezer paper—the shiny side is plastic coated. I recommend using a pencil. If your image is wider than 18" in any direction, you may need to use masking tape to tape a second sheet butted up next to the first. Place your photo on a light box or taped to the window. Bring the enlargement to the workshop along with the traced drawing on freezer paper.

### **Supplies needed:**

**Misty Fuse fusible web.** I prefer this type because it doesn't seem to build up in your machine, or make your needle gummy, or make the finished quilt rock hard like a piece of cardboard.

**Freezer Paper:** You will need enough freezer paper to trace your entire image on. If your enlargement is bigger than the 18" wide freezer paper, you will need to tape pieces together (use beige masking tape) to make a big enough piece.

**An Iron** to apply the Misty Fuse and to iron your pieces in place. (This may be supplied by the store or organization hosting the event).

### **Light box (recommended)**

**Pencil** with an eraser

**Scissors** for cutting paper and fabric

**A Slice ceramic craft** knife (highly recommended). Do not use an Exacto knife with a metal blade—it can cut your fabric.

**Scissors for both paper and fabric.**

**Silicon Goddess Sheets or 1 yard Parchment paper** (Reynolds brand or Costco brand parchment paper work well).

### **Fabric:**

You will need a piece of background fabric or a cotton solid or batik (choose a color for this that is often seen in the photo) **the size of your enlargement** (or pattern) with a bit left around the work to be trimmed off later. If you are doing the waterlily, be sure to check the fabric recommendations specific to that project.

**Other fabrics:** I love cotton Batiks for this process as they don't fray as much. *Avoid solids and fabrics that fray easily.* Hand dyed cottons are also great. Select cotton fabrics which are close in color and value as in your photo. This requires you to look at it

carefully. The amounts of each have more to do with your picture, so I cannot give you an exact amount. The advice I can give you have a large variety of different fabrics in the colors you see in your photo, in 1/8 yard to 1/4 yard amounts, which is most likely enough.

**To Finish your quilt:** A backing fabric cut 4" larger in both width and length than your enlargement, and a piece of batting of the same size as the backing, as well as thread to machine quilt. This step is usually not done in class due to time restrictions.

**I will bring the following media to the workshop for classroom use, but if you want your own set read this information below:**

***Color Pencils, Ink, Fabrico Markers, and Oil Pastels*** are all media I regularly use, and recommend good quality color pencils like Prismacolor. I also used Cray Pas oil pastels. Colors in the Fabrico markers will vary according to the image. Colors I use most often are: #152 Sand, #181 Cool Grey, #155 Truffle Brown, and #182 Real Black.