

# Quilting and Thread Painting

With Sandra Mollon

In this workshop, you have the option to quilt and thread paint detailed areas of a raw edge fused quilt you have previously completed, either in a in-person workshop with Sandra or from her online workshops—or—work on a preprinted image on fabric (available for purchase \$5.00 each) to fill in and completely cover with thread.



## **How to Prepare:**

Bring your quilt top sandwiched to a batting and backing if you are working from that (the supply list below will discuss batting and backing recommendations). If you do not have a quilt top ready, you can work from the printed photograph, either purchase one from the instructor, or print out your own.

To print your own photo on fabric I recommend using an ink jet printer and sheets of fabric prepared for the printer. I like Jacquard products, or EQ cotton sheets. These can be ordered on Amazon or online.

Additionally you will need to have a background fabric to fuse it to, about a fat quarter (18" x 22") in a color that complements your photo, and a piece of batting (cotton) and a backing fabric slightly larger than your background. You may wish to bring several fat quarters of cotton fabrics to audition your choice during the workshop, as different background colors will change the overall look of the project.

## **Supply List:**

### **Sewing Machine**

Having a clean machine in good working order, with the right foot, needles, and thread will make or break your experience. If you have ever used your machine for free-motion darning or quilting, and it worked well, it will be fine for thread painting. Bring the manual if the machine is newer to you.

**Extra Bobbins.** You may want to pre-wind several in the colors you are mostly using for the thread painting, in the same thread as listed below, or bottom line bobbin threads.

**Needles:** Size 70- 80 sharp or topstitch needles. Some threads will require size 90 needles, and often you can find what the thread manufacturer recommends if you are unsure.

**Thread:** I recommend trying to match the colors in the photograph you will use. I will also bring extra thread to share. I have used every type of thread in my thread box, but I prefer a good quality thread like Aurifil or Superior Threads 50 weight. I also own a large amount of commercial embroidery thread, which I have also used. It tends to be shiny in the picture, whereas the cotton thread is more matte. Avoid using low quality cheap thread, the breakage will drive you crazy.

**Darning Foot** for your machine, please check your machine manual and find the exact foot. ***Imperative. Make sure you pack this.***

**Extras:** You should consider bringing a portable light to enhance the normal lighting on the machine, small scissors to clip threads. You may consider reading glasses or other magnifying eyewear. You need to see what you are doing! Also an extension table for your machine is very helpful to keep your work flat while sewing, if you own one, bring it.

#### **Fabric and Adhesive:**

I mount the printed photograph onto another piece of fabric using Misty Fuse adhesive. You will receive a small piece of this from the instructor in class. I avoid thicker fusible webbing, as they can gum up the needle.

I choose a fabric to enhance the picture. If you need help with this step, please pack coordinating fabric (fat quarter size) and wait until you get there for more instructions.

#### **Cotton, bamboo or other quality batting and a backing fabric.**

Generally backing fabric and battings are cut larger all around (2" or so) than the quilt top. Backing fabric can be any cotton fabric, print, solid, or batiks.

**Safety pins for basting (8-10 pins).** Alternatively instructor will demonstrate using small bits of Misty Fuse in place of pins.

**Organizers:** The classroom will require a few irons and sheets of parchment paper to protect the irons and board at the start of the class.

