



In this class you will learn what abstract is and how to think abstractly. Expand your creativity with no quilting rules or rulers. This is not a class for perfectionists, come with an open mind and a sense of adventure. Fusing is our main technique, completed with machine quilting, which can be free motion or not.

We will explore different ways of starting your abstract creations and will focus on “simplification” as one method to get your juices flowing. You can take it from there in any direction you choose. My goal is to remove the fear of failure and help you be successful.

We will talk about methods of quilting, and finishing/mounting your piece. If students wish to wrap their finished project on a canvas frame I can bring those in a specific size such as 18 x 24 and will help do that in class. I would bring those if that is of interest to individuals (cost is \$10 or less), just let me know ahead so I bring enough.

Tentative Plan: (everyone works at their own pace)

Day 1 will be talking about composition and abstraction. Choosing your inspiration and finished size and starting to compose the subject.

Day 2 will be completing your subject, composing and quilting the background.

Day 3(half day) will be attaching the subject to the background, stitching it down and finishing the edges of the project by wrapping on canvas or attaching a facing and sleeve, or other options.

Supplies Students Need to Bring:

1. Wonder Under 805 by Pellon (or other light weight paper backed fusible web) - 3 yards minimum
2. Sewing Machine with ability to do a straight stitch. Free motion ability is nice but not required.
3. Thread for Quilting, I use 100 wt. thread from Invisafil but you may use whatever thread you wish for this class.
4. Fabric in small amounts (approx. fat quarters). We want to reduce the stress and just use the stuff we don't care too much about. It is important to have a range of values, approximately 4 or more each of the following: Darks, lights, mediums in the colors you want to use. Color is much less important than value, we tend to like medium values but your project will be much easier to compose and you will have better results if you have three values to work with. Plain or fabrics that 'read' as plain are best. Strong florals, multi-colored, or graphics don't work well. Hand dyed, tone on tone, batiks, that are not multi-colored, some Marsha Derse type and grunge are good choices. Added textures of different fabrics such as silk, damask, velvet, velveteen are great and add so much(I will provide some to share in class). I use recycled fabrics for their texture. If it doesn't melt when you press it, it is fair game. Bring fabric in your chosen color palette for your project. Sharing with others is encouraged.
 - a. Lights (examples: off-white light tans, pale shades, light blues, light greens, light greys, etc.),
 - b. Mediums (anything between light and dark) and
 - c. Darks (examples: blacks, charcoal greys, dark browns, navy, blue, green, red, whatever darks you like).
 - d. A few bright colors and graphics for a pop, only if you have them in your stash.
 - e. If you have a scrap bag of fabrics, that would be good, sharing scraps is encouraged.

- f. Pre-fused leftovers from other projects are perfect.
 - g. Don't worry about having enough fabric, it really doesn't take much and I will have lots!
5. Paper and Pencil for taking notes and sketching simple shapes, fabric scissors, paper scissors, rotary cutter, cutting mat, pins, parchment paper.
 6. Thin white or off-white batting of your choice (8" larger in width and length of your planned completed work), I like to use white polyester felt from Vogue Fabrics, located in the felt on the bolt area. This felt is inexpensive, sometimes recycled and has a nice firmness, but whatever you have is fine for this class. *If you are choosing to wrap on canvas, your finished size will be the canvas size, an 18x24 canvas size requires batting of 26x32.*
 7. Fabric for backing (8" larger in width and length of your planned completed work) something you don't care about, cotton is best. *If you are choosing to wrap on canvas, your finished size will be the canvas size, an 18x24 canvas size requires backing fabric of 26x32.*
 8. An iron and ironing surface is required, It works well if two people share an iron at their work station. Another option is to have two or three ironing stations where students bring their work to the iron when they are ready to fuse.
 9. Your personal inspiration (up to 3) – photos, sketches, picture from a magazine, ideas (not required but sometimes helpful). You can also use photos on your phone. I will have inspiration pictures available (a ton) if you don't have one. We are going to be simplifying so don't think about a detailed inspiration picture.

Provided in class

Enough outlets for ironing stations and irons and sewing machines.

Ironing stations if students don't have their own iron and ironing surface.

Large table for teacher demos near electrical outlets.

Work tables/chairs with about 4 feet of table space per student

Students may email me with any questions or concerns – pat.bishop.wi@gmail.com or call me 920.460.0617



Fading Structures



Nevermore



Cedar Swamp #4



Apple Orchard



Remnants of Home



Black Skimmer and His Royal Entourage