

Design Notes

Volume 1, Issue 4

October 14, 2008

Welcome

September has been a glorious month here on the west coast of Canada. The weather has remained good even into October...I anticipate a fabulous Thanksgiving! In Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving in October.....

I have just returned from a visit to Ontario where the fall colours are absolutely at their peak, every shade of yellow, gold, bronze, orange and red, aren't they just spectacular?

While in Ontario I taught for **The Running Stitch** in Kanata, **Country Concessions** in Cookstown and the **Mississauga Quilters Guild**. It was a fun time to make new friends and meet up with some older ones...thanks so much for making me feel welcome.

Breaking News!!!!

Set aside October 27th to see me on the web! I'll be on **The Quilt Show** with Ricky Tims and Alex Anderson showing my book and pattern quilts with Daphne Greig, my business partner.

Last March we travelled to La Veta, CO to tape our session and had so much fun!

We met so many kind and creative people and I'm very excited to see the show. Go to <http://www.thequiltshow.com> to find out all the details.

Here's picture of the outside of Ricky's studio where the show as taped.



Creative Books

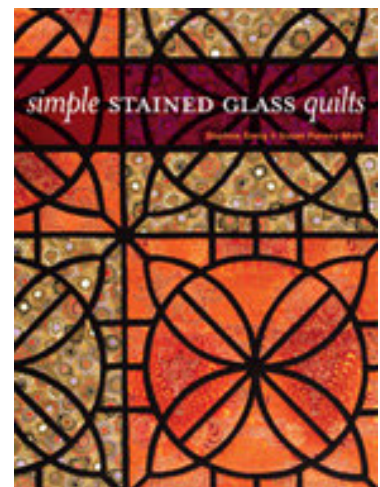
I'm always on the look out for imagery to inspire design. Sometimes its as simple as a wallpaper or carpet motif, design is all around us.

Some great resource books have snuck their way into my house and I'd highly recommend **Pattern Motifs - a Sourcebook** by Graham Leslie McCallum. ISBN13:9780713490237 he has also written **4000 Plant and Flower Motifs** and **4000 Animal, Bird and Fish Motifs**. All books are published by Bats-

More Breaking News!!!!

It's almost here! **Too Easy Stained Glass** designs have been a big hit with quilters around the world! And I'm thrilled to tell you that the technique is now in book format. Entitled **Simple Stained Glass Quilts**, it'll be ready in time for Christmas giving. So give this link to your sweetie and act surprised when it arrives!

<http://patchworkstudio.com/>



It's also a perfect book for classes, so be sure to show it at your favourite quilt shop! If you order from the web site, I'll even autograph it!

Creating Design-Playing with Paper!

Do you remember the fun you had in school cutting paper and playing with shapes? We're never too old to have fun and I'd encourage you to try this simple exercise.

Begin with some contrasting colours of paper, use gift wrap, paper bags or whatever you have at home. Choose a simple shape, star, leaf, spiral and cut several of them out of different papers and make the shapes two or three different sizes. Arrange on a background in a layout that is interesting to you. Remember that this is creative play and don't agonize over "getting it right"!

Repeat the exercise with fabric, use fusible web on the back of the appliquéd shapes and try a variety of threads and stitches to sew it all down. Add a simple binding and its done. A great exercise for colour and pattern. Try it with other shapes and make the little quilts a variety of sizes.

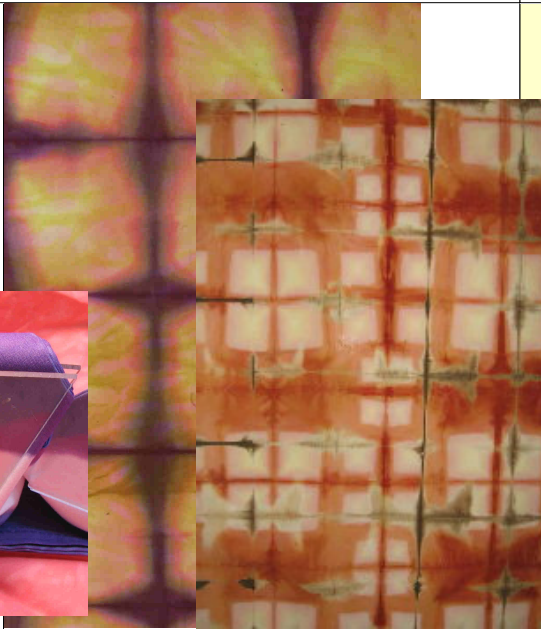
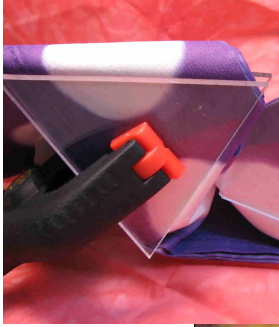


Clamp Dyeing

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As many of you know, I love to stick my fingers in the dye pot and pull something out!

Recently I've been having so much fun with folding, pleating and clamping fabric that I just love to share what I've made. I use my regular dye recipes and play with the different designs I can get by folding different angles. You can get a variety of shapes from a craft store and the clamps from a hardware store. Buy plastic supplies to keep from rusting. Stay tuned for an upcoming magazine article.



"Much like a patchwork quilt, inspiration that stirs and motivates me is made of many things."

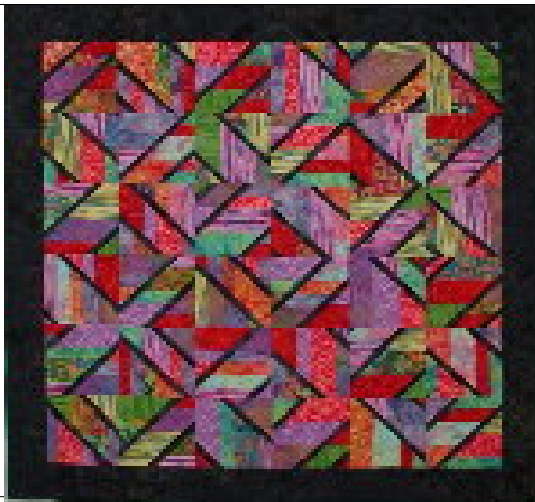
Robert Reynolds

Shattered Angles

You may have taken this workshop from me in the past and might like to recommend it to friends. I taught the technique to a couple of groups in Ontario and am just putting the finishing touches on the class to be offered through Quilt University.

If the idea of online learning appeals to you this is a great opportunity to take classes from the best teachers around the world.

Visit: <http://www.quiltuniversity.com> My class will be offered beginning January 30 but register early.



BLOGGING

Do you have a blog? Would you like me to introduce it to others? Let me know and I'll publish some of the addresses in the next newsletter. They are fun to visit and you can meet so many interesting creative people! Visit my BLOG at:

<http://www.susanpm.blogspot.com>

Teaching

I've updated my schedule for next while. If you'd like to see where and when I'll be available check out the dates on my website (look under workshops). I'm always looking for more, so keep in touch!

<http://susanpm.com/pages/schedule.html>

From My Sketchbook

Have you thought a bit more about keeping a sketchbook? Remember how I said it wasn't really a scary thing to do? Think of it as a recipe book for inspiration! And we all keep recipes, don't we?

I've taken a couple of classes recently and have added my notes, pictures and small samples into my book. You could also add a supply list that you used, the dates and place of the class and any ideas that came up during the class. Try it!

Here are some designs I've made recently...I've been working on trees as a theme. In the first picture I used fir branches with acrylic medium and paint. The second picture was layers of tracing paper with the same design but rotated each time and layered one on top of another.

You also don't need a lot of supplies, basic marker, pencils, scissors, glue stick, paints are all that's needed to get your self going.

See the full list on my blog!

