



Susan Purney Mark Talk to me: info@susanpm.com Web: www.susanpm.com

Design Notes

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Welcome design Notes

Summer is finished, yet again...the children have headed back to school and I am thrilled to be back in my studio. I love this time of year, it feels like a fresh start and new beginnings, hmmm. Perhaps I feel like I've never left school, I have a overwhelming urge to open a fresh new scribbler!

But I would like to start a new project, let's see....there's a few unfinished ones in my drawers.....There's the fabric waiting for the dye-pot....and I do have a stack of dyed fabric waiting to be painted....and some dyes and painted fabric waiting to be cut and sewn....I do have a quilt hanging to send to my long-armed, I just can't quilt them all myself..... Ok, maybe I'll work on what I have!

I've pulled out a couple of partially finished pieces, one needs some stitching. One needs some beading....hey wait! These are great take-along projects and I bet they could be finished this weekend, WOW!

Here's one that I'll be working on, the fabric was dyed and screen printed then quilted, discharged, painted with thickened dyes and now I'm adding hundreds of little seed stitches and beads.....



Creating Images-Stamping, Stamping

Last newsletter I promised some stamps from the images that I had taken in Hawaii and I've just had so much fun!

I chose an unlikely subject but I was intrigued by the garbage cans that were scattered around Honolulu and thought that such a simple motif was perfect for stamps.

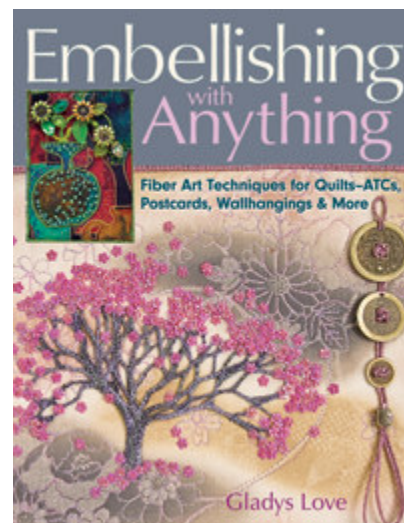


I made a large stamp, one half size and then one that was the "positive" image. Those three stamps will give me lots of arrangement possibilities on both fabric and paper.

What designs can you create?

Creative Books

When I was at Quilt Market this spring I found a new book that just thrilled me to bits! Not only is the book chock full of great ideas for adding interesting details to your art work but the author, Gladys Love lives on the same island as I do, Vancouver Island—what a neat coincidence!



Anyway, here's what the publisher has to say about the book:

Learn how to use supplies from your stash (and maybe your trash) to make charming little quilts. You'll find art all around you once you learn to Embellish with Anything.

From C&T Publications

ISBN978-1-57120-588-9

I'm looking forward to trying some of the techniques in the book, including hand-made beads and maybe a journal cover!

Websites and Blogs of Interest

<http://www.trishahassler.com>

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

<http://www.mariaelkins.com>

<http://www.pebblehillstudio.ca>

<http://www.sookeclothdolls.com>

Would you like a simple and stunning way to spice up your wardrobe? Why not try dyeing your own scarves? Its easy to find sources for the scarf blanks (that's what the plain white ones are called), get a few friends together and make it a party (leave the wine til later) and make a few very quick gifts. (You should use an old microwave that won't be used again for food.)

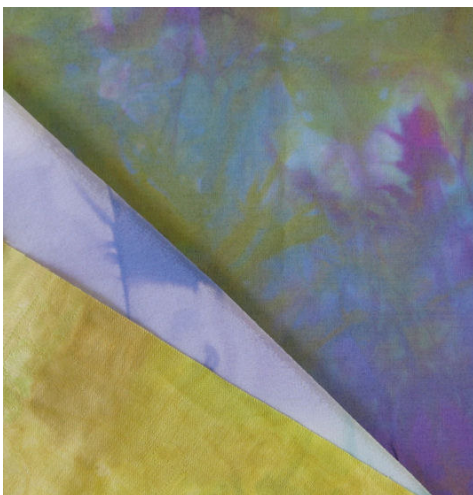
Wear a dust mask while mixing the dye powder.

Mix up: 2 c. water
1 t. soda ash
1/4 t. Procion dye

Mix above ingredients in large (2 quart) bowl - one that will NOT be used for food preparation later.

Add 3-4 scarf blanks and let fabric soak in the liquid. Scrunch or fold the scarves for more textured effect.

Cover bowl with microwaveable plastic wrap and seal completely. Do not vent the package to insure the scarves do not dry and burn. Place a full glass of water in the microwave beside the dish containing the scarf. Microwave on high: 3 1/2 minutes in a 700 watt unit, 4 1/2 minutes in a 500 watt unit. Remove from the micro- wave...it will be hot so be careful....poke a couple of holes in the wrap to let the steam escape and cool completely before removing plastic wrap or washing the scarf.



Can't get to my classes?

I'll come to you.....

Shattered Angles

This technique is full of surprises in creating a design to be "one of a kind". Students will learn how to "stack, slash and sew" fabrics, insert contrasting strips and how to play with colour and value to create a very unique design. Quilt size and layout is flexible, make it big or small. This design is the perfect quilt for fat quarters or a secret stash of wonderful fabrics! A variation of this quilt is in my new book "Fat Quarter Frenzy Two".

Class begins October 30, register at

<http://www.quiltuniversity.com>



Rinse fabric until water runs clear - press gently and watch for the comments!

Buy the supplies, including scarf blanks from <http://www.dharmatrading.com> they have a great beginners dyeing kit as well.

Ann Johnston's book **Dyeing by Accident** is very useful and will set you on your journey for a colourful experience!



Feel like cruising?

Come with me to Alaska in September 2010! We'll be embarking from Vancouver aboard the Holland America *Zuiderdam* and calling in at Skagway, Ketchikan and Juneau as well as seeing the famous glaciers in Glacier Bay. Contact Sharon Sher at Cruise Ship Centers 1-866-477-4898. If you have questions about the workshops I'll be offering, then email me at: info@susanpm.com

Feature Quilter-Valerie Hearder

There are places and times that resonate within us and help to determine who we are and how we live our lives. For Valerie Hearder that place must surely be her early home in South Africa. She says that "the stunning scenery of South Africa, rare flora, and vibrant culture is a deep influence in my use of colour and love of the landscape form".

I've known Valerie for many years and have been inspired by her fibre work and most particularly by her quilted landscape books. The most recent one, "Points of View" from Martingale and Company is a terrific resource for creating representations of nature's scenery. Ask for it at your local quilt shop or order it from Valerie and she will autograph it for you!

While Valerie is a talented quilter and fabric artist she also spends a great deal of time promoting African textiles made by women facing extreme poverty and deprivation in her native country. Valerie purchases these pieces and imports them into Canada to sell and provides an important source of income for these talented women. Please take some time to visit Valerie's' website and see the wonderful work done by South African women!

<http://www.valeriehearder.com/africanthreads>

Valerie's blog:

<http://www.threadlink.typepad.com/africanthread>

