

Instructor

Ann P Shaw

Email

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Experience Level

Confident Beginner

Sewing Machine Required

Yes

Course Overview

Trees and bushes paint our landscape with color, often shades of green but frequently other splashes of vibrant hues. Fall is my favorite season when leaves turn shades of yellow, red and orange. The patterns in this workshop feature foliage indigenous to different regions. Each pattern is ideally sized to create a small wallhanging or can be combined to create a table runner. Make a series of these blocks and you have a bed-sized quilt! Based on the design and piecing techniques of Ruth McDowell, these designs take traditional patchwork a step further through the use of unexpected fabric choices. Join us in celebrating foliage as a wonder of nature.

On Day 1, we will briefly discuss this design method. You will then prepare a freezer paper template for your leaf pattern and begin the process of selecting fabrics for your design. We will also discuss sewing methods and sewing order to complete your wallhanging or table runner.

On Day 2, we will discuss how to create your own leaf design using the idea of Gesture. You will then have the opportunity to begin your own leaf design, or you can complete work on the pattern started on day 1. The choice is yours!



Required Supplies

Pattern: Select one of the foliage patterns available for this class. Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

Fabrics:

You will see that my patterns combine a wide selection of fabrics that enhance the look of the quilt. The image (such as a chicken, flower or bird) will use anywhere from 8-15 different fabrics, mostly in small pieces. Some fabrics will be repeated in the quilt, others may appear only once. The backgrounds will also typically feature 3-6 additional fabrics that have a similar look. In some instances we will be looking for specific features in a patterned fabric — for example something that



suggests the shape of an eye, or feathers, or fur, or a stem. Patterned fabrics with multiple colors add texture and dimension to the quilt. We will be playing with different combinations to see how these fabrics look next to each other. Having lots of patterned fabric choices from which to choose is part of the creative process for these quilts and helps bring these designs to life. It's the seemingly odd combinations of fabrics that bring texture and depth to your quilts, and will work well.

BRING LOTS!! Lots and lots of patterned fabric. A fat quarter or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Bring you largish patterned fabric scraps (though the strips found in jelly rolls are too narrow). I routinely pull 50 or more fabric choices from my stash for the main subject of my quilts and additional fabric choices for the background. Having a wide variety of fabric choices to key to this style. When choosing colors, keep in mind that a red poppy will also have bits of orange and yellow, and perhaps hints of purple and gold and green in it, so look for fabrics that have hints of other colors. **BRING YOUR STASH!!** However, note that we will **NOT BE USING** solid or tone-on-tone fabrics that “read” as solids.



Large prints, medium prints, small prints, batiks, plaids, stripes, prints with many colors, bold fabrics as well as pastels — I pull them all. Each different kind of print will add something different to the overall look of the quilt. Look for printed fabrics where the print clearly contrasts with the background.

Before class, visit my website and spend some time looking at the range of patterned fabrics used in my quilts to get an idea of what to bring. www.AnnShawQuilting.com

Also look at Ruth McDowell's website to look at the fabrics she uses in her gorgeous quilts. www.RuthBMcDowell.com

For Freezer Paper Template:

** Freezer paper

** Pencils/Eraser/Pencil Sharpener

Ruler (18" plastic is ideal)

Paper Scissors

** Blue Masking Tape

** Sharpie brand Ultra Fine-line permanent marker (Black only!)

** First Aid Cloth Tape

** Highlighters (several colors)

** Color pencils (7 distinct colors for making tick marks)

(NOTE: Ink pens, Gel pens, Sharpie Markers or Crayons will not work for tick marks)

** Design Wall: Bring to class a foam design board. A 30" x 40" foam board works best. Bring a 30' x 40' foam board or three 20" x 30" foam boards and six binder clips. We can tape together the smaller foam boards to create a larger 30"x 40" design wall. Foam board is inexpensive and can be found at your local office supply store. You will be pinning your Master Design and template pieces to this as you audition individual fabric selections. It's then easy to carry your project home.

Note: Using a piece of batting or flannel alone will not work – you will need a foam board.

Sewing Supplies:

Rotary cutter, 14" or 18" rotary cutting ruler and cutting mat

Pins (LOTS!! Pincushion overflowing with 200+ pins!! 1" ball head pins or longer are ideal)

Fabric scissors

Basic sewing kit

** Several Ziploc bags (quart and gallon size)

** Paper and Pencil to take notes

** Supplies not carried by The Stitchin' Post

Sewing machine and Supplies: (bobbins thread, needles etc).

You will likely begin sewing toward the end of the first day or the beginning of the second day. You will be making several leaf blocks for the table runner. You should be comfortable using your machine.

Before coming, check to be sure that it is in good working order.

Required Book or Pattern

Pattern: Select one of the foliage patterns available for this class.
Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

