

Susan Brubaker Knapp

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About me

I am a fiber artist, quilt pattern designer and teacher. Quilting started as my hobby, but has turned into a passion and a business. I teach classes at quilt guilds, at quilt festivals – and occasionally online — and have published patterns and books for my original quilt designs.

I love traditional hand quilting and needleturn appliqué, but have embraced innovative machine techniques. I started making “art quilts” — works of art executed in fabrics and fibers — in 2005. My quilts have won national as well as local awards, and have been exhibited at national and international venues. I have won seven Best of Show awards at three different quilting guilds, with six different quilts.

I am an experienced writer, and have worked in corporate communications and also as a page designer for *The Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, N.C.) and *The Herald-Leader* (Lexington, Ky.).

I grew up near Pittsburgh, Pa., and earned my B.A. in English at Allegheny College (Meadville, Pa.) and my M.A. in journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I now live near Charlotte, N.C., with my husband, Rob, and two daughters.

Artist's statement

Creating fiber art is my consuming passion. I am an artist who works in fabric and thread. I find great joy in creating works that draw people closer and invite them to savor color, texture and form. The art I create is my way of celebrating and documenting the deep mysteries of the world that are to be experienced only by close inspection of the miraculous details of nature.

While my core materials — cloth and thread — are those used in traditional quilting, I often employ substances such as fabric paints and dyes, Tyvek, Angelina fibers, and water-soluble wax pastels, to transform the cloth. Nearly all of my work is realistic in style, and starts with original photographs of the subjects. I use two primary techniques – wholecloth painting, and fused applique – then heavily free-motion thread sketch the surface before quilting.

Highlights

Author of *Point, Click, Quilt: Turn Your Photos into Fabulous Fabric Art* (C&T, 2011), and *Appliqué Petal Party*, (C&T, 2009)

Featured on *The Quilt Show with Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims*, Episode 901 (July 4, 2011); www.thequiltshow.com

2010 columnist for *Quilting Arts* magazine (6-issue series on thread sketching)

Selected for the 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 *Quilting Arts Calendars*

Quilting Arts Workshop DVDs: *Master Machine Quilting: Free-motion Stitching and Thread Sketching* (2009), *Master Machine Stitching: Thread Sketching Beyond the Basics* (2010), and *Dynamic Quilt Design: Paint Meets Stitch* (2011)

Featured on Quilting Arts TV – Series 500 (2009-2010); Series 700 (2010-2011) and Series 900 (2011-2012)

Interviewed by Mark Lipinski for his *Creative Mojo* radio show, and by Pat Sloan for the *American Patchwork & Quilting Radio* show.

Featured in the following magazines and books: *QuiltArt Engagement Calendar 2012*, *Quilters Newsletter*, *Cloth Paper Scissors' Studios*, *Quilters Newsletter*, *Modern Blocks*, *101 Patchwork Projects + Quilts*, *Quilt* magazine, *SAQA's Portfolio 16 and 17*, *Quilting Arts Gifts*, *Machine Quilting Unlimited*, *Fons & Porter's Easy Quilts* (Fall 2011), *In Stitches*, and *Quilt Scene*.

Aurifil Thread “Expert” and Designer of the Month, January 2011.

Susan Brubaker Knapp

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS 2011-2012



General information

I strive to provide professional instruction in a supportive, friendly atmosphere. I encourage students to push themselves beyond their comfort zones to learn new things and improve their skills, and to have fun doing it.

For engagements requiring more than four hours of travel, I require a minimum booking of one presentation and two six-hour workshops. For more information or to download my contract, go to www.blumoonriver.com.

Need to accommodate more than 20 students in a workshop? This is possible in some workshops for an additional fee. Please contact me to discuss the details.

2012 prices:

Presentation: \$300

3-hour workshop: \$375

6-hour workshop: \$525

2013 prices:

Presentation: \$400

3-hour workshop: \$425

6-hour workshop: \$625

The artist in you

A one-hour digital slide show and trunk show. I describe my personal journey from that of a traditional quilter and pattern designer to an artist who makes both traditional quilts and art quilts. I start by discussing my work (both traditional and art quilts) and some of the techniques I use.

The focus is on ways for traditional quilters to become more creative by embracing their own “inner artist.” It is my goal to inspire and encourage quilters to try making an art quilt for several reasons: to challenge themselves, to unleash their innate creativity, to learn new techniques, to discover things about themselves through art, and to share their view of the world with others.

Thread sketch it!

A one-hour digital slide show and trunk show. I cover what thread sketching is (and isn't!), preparing your piece for thread sketching, stabilizers, types of threads and thread weights, sewing machine considerations, great tools, and how to add wonderful detail to your piece with thread, including color, line, pattern, texture, dimension and movement. I'll also address getting over your fear of trying free-motion stitching.

This presentation covers much of what I wrote about in my series of six articles for *Quilting Arts* magazine in 2010, and in the two *Quilting Arts Workshop DVDs* on the subject I produced in 2009 and 2010.

Yes, you can do needleturn appliqué!

A one-hour digital slide show and trunk show. I walk you through my method of doing needleturn appliqué. I cover all the basics: fabric choice and preparation; several ways of making templates (or, better yet, working without templates at all!); creating positioning overlays; doing reverse applique; and stitching precise concave and convex points, curves, beautiful circles and bias vines.

You'll learn about the little details and tools that make all the difference: knots (starting and stopping), threads, needles, pins, sand boards, and marking devices. I finish with a trunk show and question-and-answer session. My love and enthusiasm for needleturn applique is infectious... Those in your group who admire needleturn appliqué but are terrified to try may just decide to jump in!



Wholecloth painting

Students will learn the basics of creating wholecloth painted quilts. For \$10, students may purchase a kit with most of the materials (this is optional, but recommended). Working with acrylic fabric paints, students create a small piece (choosing from several designs shown here). We will cover:

- * selecting the right photos for great results
- * which paints and fabrics to use and why
- * how to transfer your design to fabric
- * painting and blending techniques
- * quilting considerations

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: All

TIME: 6 hours

REQUIREMENTS: Access to water for paint cleanup. Table space for each student.

Adequate lighting. Floors that can get messy, and can clean up with water.

One iron and one ironing board.



Thread sketching

A workshop for those who already have basic free-motion machine quilting experience who want to expand their skills to create color and texture with thread. Using a line drawing of a dragonfly, students learn how to:

- * make templates for the body and create fusible pieces
- * stabilize the fabric surface
- * choose the right threads and needles for threadsketching
- * adjust tension for the correct stitch

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Intermediate

TIME: 6 hours

REQUIREMENTS: Table space for each student. Access to power outlets. Several light boards. Two ironing boards and irons. Each student must bring a machine able to drop feed dogs, and with a free-motion foot.



Surface design madness

Come and experiment with some of the exciting new materials you can use in your quilts to create texture and color. I provide all the materials for a \$10 fee payable at the start of class. This is a fun, low stress way to try some new things. The only thing you need to bring is a quarter yard of white fabric, a quarter yard of black fabric, and a creative spirit! Students will learn techniques using the following materials:

- * Lumiere fabric paint
- * Dye-na-Flow fabric paint
- * Jacquard textile medium
- * Shiva paintstiks and rubbing plates
- * rubber stamps
- * Angelina fibers
- * Tyvek
- * Wonder Under (used as a paint transfer material)

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: All

TIME: 3 hours or 6 hours (3-hour workshops may cover fewer materials than are listed, due to time constraints)

REQUIREMENTS: Access to outside space and power outlets when heating and burning materials. Access to water for paint cleanup. Two ironing boards. Table space for each student. Floors that can get messy, and can clean up with water.



Start with a photo

This workshop is designed to help you learn the skills you need to go home, take your favorite photo, and interpret it in fabric. In the workshop, we will all be working on the same photo, a close-up shot I took of a wonderful round barn at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. You will learn how to:

- * make a positioning overlay from clear upholstery vinyl
- * create patterns on fusible web
- * cut out your fabric pieces and fuse them
- * use thread to “sketch” on top of your fabric to add detail, color and texture.

MAX CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Intermediate

TIME: 6 hours

REQUIREMENTS: Several ironing boards and irons. Several light boards. Access to outlets for sewing machines. Table space for each student. Each student must bring a machine able to drop feed dogs, and with a free-motion foot.



Machine quilting 101

Many beginner quilters have a bunch of quilt tops sitting in their sewing room that they are afraid to quilt. In this class, students learn the basics and gain confidence to go home, practice, and take on those quilt tops. In this class, students learn about:

- * pinning and basting
- * lighting, ergonomics and posture
- * exercises to reduce strain
- * the sewing surface
- * settings for your machine
- * the essential feet (free-motion/darning foot, and walking foot)
- * how to work with a big quilt
- * starting and stopping neatly
- * what to do if thread breaks or you run out of thread
- * thread, needle and batting basics
- * preparing a quilt for quilting (how to make the “quilt sandwich”)

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Beginner to intermediate

TIME: 3 hours or 6 hours

REQUIREMENTS: Access to power outlets. Each student must bring a machine able to drop feed dogs, and with a free-motion foot.



Needleturn appliqué

Learn the fine art of needleturn applique step by step. If you’ve never done needleturn applique and are intimidated and afraid to try, this workshop is for you. Using my “Spring Valentine” pattern, which has all the shapes and techniques beginner appliquers need to learn, we will cover:

- * marking and pinning
- * concave curves and points
- * convex curves and points
- * reverse applique
- * bias stems
- * small and medium circles
- * straight lines
- * making a positioning overlay
- * making pattern templates

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 20

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Beginner to intermediate

TIME: 6 hours

REQUIREMENTS: Good lighting or individual lights brought by students. Table space for each student.