



I'm Here -- Improvisational Mapping quilt with Annie Smith

You're going to make a quilt a like no other that you've tried before. It's going to be FUN! I want you think about what the inspiration for your quilt will be: your childhood neighborhood, you favorite walking or biking trail, a city where you spent vacation, where you went to summer camp -- things like this. There are many that you can choose, and I want you to entertain the idea of more than one location.

Now, find a map that you can copy and enlarge to bring with you to class. This doesn't have to be expensive! It can be as easy as doing a Google search. For instance, I put this in the URL: "santa clara high school benton street" and hit return. In the upper right hand corner of the browser window, there was a map that I can enlarge to see the street names around the high school, including where I lived, where my best friend lived, parks and a hospital and the route to and from my home that I took to walk to school.

I can put as much or as little detail in it that I wish.

Another option is to go to a Goodwill store, or garage sale and see if they have any used maps. Perhaps you have some already.

PLEASE NOTE: In this class at Road to California, we'll just be doing the designing phase of the project. Since the stitching is secondary to the project, we want to spend all of our time with the designing.

You'll need a variety of fabric. It can be anything. You can do solids, you can do batiks or prints, florals, building materials or geometrics. If you have a fabric that looks like a printed map, you can use that too.

- ¼ yard cuts or fat quarters will be ideal
- 1 yard of fabric for the base (This can be anything - but should contrast with the fabrics that you'll applique on top of it – so your design doesn't disappear)
- ½ yard of green if you're going to add any foliage
- ½ yard of blue if you're going to add water bodies
- Scraps of many greens if you're going to add trees or shrubbery

You can add texture by adding applique shapes, or stitching lines with embroidery floss or perle cotton. This will be discussed completely in class. Bring what you think you might want to use but we won't actually do any stitching in class.

Supplies for class:

- Basic sewing kit (scissors for paper, scissors for fabric (small detail scissors), ball head pins, seam ripper, etc.)
- Cutting mat, rotary cutter, and ruler – there will be irons and pressing surfaces in the classroom, but you're welcome to bring your own.
- You need to have fusible web. I recommend Soft Fuse, which I will have available in class to purchase, so you don't need to bring it with you. Please don't bring an old roll of something you've had in the closet for awhile - fusible goes bad and won't stick if it's old.

There is going to be a kit of items that you will need for your project that I will bring for you. The kit is not optional.

The kit is \$30.

It will include, but is not limited to: a pencil, a Sharpie, some Soft Fuse, drafting paper on a roll, gridded drafting paper sheets, office supply glue sticks, a manila folder, and more.

I'll also have textile paints, stencils and other tools for you to use in class.

Be ready for fun-packed days of playing with abandon!

If you have any questions, please email me at annie@anniesmith.net. You can ask me anything.