

High Key Design

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Supply list

In this class we will be learning to work in a high key palette. Haven't you always loved the way the photographers photograph kids dressed in white on a white backdrop. Well, this is the look I try to achieve, making it a little painterly along the way. However, using commercial fabrics to achieve this goal, we need to remember that we are at the mercy of the manufacturer so compromise is imminent.

We will also learn how to add your perfect 1/4" to any curved piece. It's a no fail method! Students will also learn how to utilize the pattern, make alterations to the pattern, piece curves, enhance your fabrics with ink and talk about quilting. My goal is that every one of my students come away having learned something new.

- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies, pins, seam ripper, thread etc.
Please bring your 1/4" sewing foot.
- Rotary cutting supplies
- Paper and fabric scissors
- Colored pencils. These do not need to be fancy, just a variety of colors.
- Iron and ironing pad.
- Fabric marking pencil. I like Boehm or Sewline with the blue lead. These are the pink (red) pencils that look like a mechanical pencil.
- Design board at least 24"x24". I like the styrofoam insulation boards from Home Depot. They have 2' x 4', 2" thick precut pieces available. They are lightweight and very easy to pin into. Cover with flannel or cotton batting. If you already have something made, just bring it.
- Ziplock bags.

Fabrics:

Attached you'll find pictures of the types of fabrics you will be looking for. A large part of this class is to learn how to work in a high key palette. This means that your darkest value fabric is actually going to be what we normally consider a medium value. Batiks and hand dyed fabrics work best as they already possess a watercolor look. Look for pieces that are multi-colored. This helps with the blending process. Also look for pieces that have a lot of white in them. For example, a very pale blue with white combo.

The darkest pieces in this quilt are the eye and nostril. Don't worry about bringing fabrics for these as I will be pre-making these for you, for times sake. I will demonstrate how these are easily put together for future reference.

For the watercolor look, please do not bring solids or prints. Think of it this way, if you have a plain piece of wet, white fabric and you drop liquid paint onto the fabric, the paint will bleed out over the white piece. This is the look we're going for. Prints change the look completely and solids won't blend.

As for yardage, bring anything from scraps to larger yardage. The sample was made completely from my scrap bucket and contains only 5 different pieces, with the exception of the white background and border. You may have something already pictured in your mind of what yours will look like, but, the fabric you bring will dictate the direction of this piece. It's best to begin with as large of a variety as you can possibly bring. After you're on your way, you'll find you're only working with a few fabrics.

Make sure to bring a large variety of colors as well. Blues and violets work well, especially for shaded areas, as shaded areas are almost always cool colors. Don't leave out yellows, pinks, grays etc.. Your fabrics should not be too intense or saturated. This is not a good place for those neons!

Make sure you frequently refer to the fabric sample page.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 858-243-7310.

Examples of fabric:

