

Paula Nadelstern

#106 Simple Blocks + Complex Fabrics = A Puzzle Quilt

I've distilled twenty years of complex quilting into simple theories that explain my idiosyncratic patchwork sensibility and define my way of thinking about fabric. A Puzzle Quilt is a clever vehicle for combining these elements into a sampler with a secret: each block design is used twice. By using totally different fabric combinations, an illusion is created: each block appears unique. The "puzzle" is to pick out which two are the same. I promise: you will see possibilities in fabric in a whole new way. This class is aimed at the quilter who wants to embrace the potential offered by a wide range of fabric choices rather than be overwhelmed by it. The focus is on design, specifically learning to use fabric to create unexpected results.

SUPPLIES (* will be available for purchase at seminar)

PLEASE NOTE: The book, PUZZLE QUILTS: Simple Blocks, Complex Fabrics by Paula Nadelstern (C&T, 2006) will be referred to in class.

1. 12" x 12" Graph paper with bold inch line
 - *2. Sheets of see-thru plastic template material, either clear or with a grid and a bold inch line. (Do not purchase long sheets in rolled format; they will never obey your will and lie flat.)
 - *3. A thin 12" x 2" or 6" x 1" ruler made of clear plastic with accurate one-eighth-inch grid lines
 4. Well-sharpened pencils with ample and accessible erasers
 - *5. Extra fine permanent marker. Ex: PILOT® Extra Fine Permanent Marker, SCA-UF
 - *6. Method to mark dark fabric. My preference: Silver Sanford Uni-ball Gel Impact 1.0mm
- AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CLASS
7. Fabric scissor
 8. Template/paper scissors
 9. Set-up for rotary cutting, including a rotary cutter, ruler and mat. If you have a small rotary mat on a lazy susan, bring it. Bring smaller 28mm rotary cutter, if you own one.
 10. Sewing machine with well-defined quarter-inch seam allowance guide and single hole throat plate
 11. General sewing supplies
 12. Toy compass, if you already own one.

FABRIC

If it catches your eye, bring it! The palette of fabric does not have to match. Diversity is the key. Remember, more is more! Think luminosity, translucence, iridescence.

Bring one yard each of at least two fabrics with bilateral symmetry. In other words, the motif can be divided into identical halves by a line passing through the center.

Bring a beautiful, opulent patterned print (does not have to be symmetrical but can be) with at least four repeats.

Also: a wide variety of 1/4-1/2 yards of small to medium all-over prints, textures, gradations, stripes, marbled and stuff speckled with gold (a black splattered with gold is excellent.) Include rich, saturated jewel tones and painterly fabrics that evoke luminosity, translucence, iridescence. Black and white all-overs such as dots or dash are useful. So are classic stripes, perhaps with wide bands or shadings of color, or a wacky stripe.

BRING DARK COLORED THREAD