

## Landscape "Painting" with Fabric

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Instructor: Susan Hoffmann

(920)573-2434 ~ [susanstextileart@yahoo.com](mailto:susanstextileart@yahoo.com)

### Supply List

**Note** - During the first two days of the class students will learn the basic skills of this technique by constructing a 16"x20" landscape project from a kit. All materials and supplies for this project are included in the kit, with the exception of a few tools that are included at the end of this list. During the remainder of the class students will create a second piece of work using their own photograph and fabrics. You will be able to continue using my art supplies that are included in the kit.

**Photograph** - Choose a landscape photograph you really love - **preferably one you've taken yourself**. Make sure your photo has a strong focal point. Subject matters to stay away from are people, animals, and waterfalls. Scenes with *calm* bodies of water are fine, as are scenes with *distant* buildings. Fences and paths will also work. Before you commit to a winter scene, make sure you can find the proper fabric to represent snow. If you do not consider yourself a photographer and would prefer to use a photo from a calendar, magazine, book, or other commercial source, be prepared to make significant changes (30%) to avoid copyright infringement. (This will not be a problem if the piece you create is for your own personal use; however, if you plan to exhibit, sell, or gift your work, you must take steps to make it original.) **Reprint the photo in an 8"x10" or 16"x20" size**. Do not plan to work from a 4"x6" print or a photo stored on an electronic device.

**Fabrics** - Selecting your fabrics is a very important part of creating your landscape "painting," and it is also the most fun! It's possible you may need to visit several quilt shops or websites to find the variety of fabrics you need. And you may also find a few pieces you need in your stash. One rule to remember when shopping is, **"no solid or calico fabrics."** Also, think outside the box when choosing your fabrics; be sure to look at the backside of fabrics when shopping – you may find the texture or color you need for your scene. Finally, just like a painter preparing his palette, you should select fabrics that all look well together. (Green-colored fabrics will be the hardest to coordinate.) With that in mind, this is what you will need:

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**Background** - Choose  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a yard of fabric for your background. Depending on your photo, your background fabric should represent the color and texture of the most prevalent background feature in your photo. For example, if that feature is the sky, choose an appropriate fabric to represent the sky for the background. (Stay away from fabric with printed clouds as it usually does not look realistic.) If the most prominent feature is the grass, choose something to represent the grass. A leafy woods...choose fabric for that. Consider batiks, but do not choose anything too "busy."

**Details** - When choosing fabrics for the details of your piece, do not plan to use fabrics from which you will cut an *entire* tree or an *entire* rocky ledge or an *entire* barn (i.e., do not purchase quilting panels). To create realistic looking details you will be cutting and layering several pieces of fabric for each element. You will need about  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard each for the detail fabrics. Also, purchase  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 yard of fabric for each type of tree trunk in your photo **if** the pattern in the fabric runs parallel with the selvedge. (If it runs in the opposite direction you will need less.)

Types of fabric to consider are:

\*Patterned whites, grays, browns, burgundies, dark blues, teals, and blacks for *tree trunks*. Also look for vertical- or horizontal-patterned batiks and gradated fabrics - they come in a variety of colors and make wonderful tree trunks.

\*Gold, green, rust, red, and brown patterned fabrics for *leaves, grasses, and other ground cover*.

Choose fabrics containing several sizes of leaves, grasses, flowers, etc., so you can achieve the proper perspective in your landscape "painting." (The appropriate size is usually smaller than you think.) Do not choose fabrics that are too "stylized" or have a black outline around every element as they do not look natural.

\*If *clouds* or *water* have not been defined with your selection of a background fabric and they are part of your scene, you will want to choose some appropriately patterned fabrics for these features.

\*Last, but not least, select fabrics that can be used for *rocks, paths, fences, or wood siding (barns, houses)*, if your scene requires them. Use the same guidelines stated above for choosing properly proportioned fabrics.

#### **Website Suggestions:**

[equilter.com](http://equilter.com)

[fabrics.com](http://fabrics.com)

[fabrickshack.com](http://fabrickshack.com)

[fatquartershop.com](http://fatquartershop.com)

[missouriquiltco.com](http://missouriquiltco.com)

Etsy and Amazon also sell fabrics

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**Tools and supplies** - I will be discussing a lot of “tips and tricks” during class, as well as introducing some handy tools and supplies. You will have a chance to try out these items during class, but plan to share! The items you will need to bring with you are:

**Scissors** - You must have an *extremely* sharp pair of scissors to achieve success with this technique. It is imperative your scissors is razor sharp along its *entire* length (many scissors are not sharp at the tip). The length of the *blades* should be no longer than 1 ½ “- 2”. Also, the scissors should fit your hand well and feel comfortable. A large sewing shears may also be helpful for cutting some of your fabric to the preferred size when getting started. You will also need a scissors suitable for cutting paper.

**Adhesives** – You will need 2 yards of the iron-on product Heat ‘n Bond **Lite**. (I prefer you buy it off a bolt rather than pre-packaged as it is easier to manage without the packaging creases.) If you have a preference for, and experience using, another brand of adhesive/bonding product, you may bring that instead.

**Hand-held mini iron with triangular foot or other small iron - *only if you already have one***  
**Rotary blade cutter**

**Measuring tape** - flexible sewing tape

**Notebook and pen** - there will be very few handouts for this class; you will want to have a small notebook and pen to jot down a few notes.

**Scratch paper** – just a few sheets for practicing with the art supplies

**Camera, cell phone, or other**

**Smile** –bring your best one because we are going to have fun!

**If you have any questions or concerns about purchasing fabric and/or supplies for this class, please do not hesitate to contact me! Also, if you have several photos you are considering and cannot decide which one would work the best, email them to me and I will help you decide.**

**Happy shopping! I look forward to seeing you this summer!**

**Susan Hoffmann**