

## DESIGNING ART QUILTS with Lura Schwarz Smith

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### CLASS DESCRIPTION

Learn successful tracing, shading and inking onto fabric, working from your own photographic paper prints (any subject matter). Using textile inks, markers, pencils, pastels and other materials, discover fun, easy design and drawing exercises to achieve realistic imagery in your quilts. We will explore design elements geared for the specific application of your individual projects, and you will create a master pattern from your own images.

Emphasis is on individual applications of techniques, and the fun of developing your own style. No prior art experience necessary, but those with an art background will learn specific applications for achieving beautiful imagery on fabric.

### STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

- 8 ½ " x 11" or 8"x 10" prints of your photos, or drawings of a similar size (your own, to avoid copyright issues) in any subject matter, for practice shading with inks. Bring a variety of images - choices are good! Use the clearest, best prints you can to get the best information. If working from smaller, vintage photos, scan these (or photocopy) and bring prints of the larger size, for ease in tracing -- bring originals for reference, if enlargements are not clear. Any subject matter that interests you is fine - it's especially fun to work with photos that have meaning for you.
- Do not bring framed photos as the glass makes it difficult to trace detail accurately.
- At least 6 sheets of 8 ½" x 11" non-bleed muslin pressed to freezer paper (**note Dot Test instruction page for testing fabrics for bleed ability**). Bring another half-yard of muslin for spare, in case needed.
- **OPTIONAL:** other fabrics such as commercial prints that you wish to ink or mark on, in colors that suit your project. (**Check fabrics with Dot Test!**)
- Pencil and paper (printer paper is fine)
- Sharpie Ultrafine Black Marker
- Lightbox (students may share: at least 5 are needed in room)
- **OPTIONAL:** We will be working a great deal with the Tsukineko All Purpose Inks, with the Fantastix applicators, as well as the Fabrico Textile Markers made by the same company. Many people wish to purchase their own, as they are such fun to

use. If you already have them and wish to bring them, you can bring them or any Prismacolor colored pencils, textile markers, textile paints, etc. that you may have. This is OPTIONAL as I bring enough to share in class, but sometimes it's nice to have your own. The basic kit fee will still apply as I supply many materials as well as the class inks, markers, etc. to share.

- **Supply Fee: \$15** (Includes sample Fantastix applicators, sample muslin, use of class inks and supplies, etc.)
- To see other student work done in my classes with these inks and techniques, visit the Student Gallery pages, found under Classes, on my website. I look forward to meeting you soon!

### **TESTING FABRIC FOR BLEEDABILITY IN INKING**

In working with textile inks, choosing the right fabrics will make your inking process MUCH more enjoyable. Fabrics vary widely in their bleed ability when inks, markers and other wet media are applied. For any detailed work, finding fabrics that do not bleed will allow you to put your ink where you want it to go – and to stay there!

Because the greige cloth, or base fabrics, seem to change even with known fabric lines, I recommend you get in the habit of testing each fabric before you buy or use it. This is what I call the Dot Test.

Get a textile marker with a medium tip – Pigmas and Microns are too small a point to give you an accurate, useful test. Get a medium tip TEXTILE marker (paper markers will not work!) such as a Fabrico textile marker. Place the blunt tip on the fabric surface, hold it there, and count slowly to 5. Lift the marker. What you want is a nice, clean dot the size of the marker tip – if you see a bleed or halo of ink out from the marker tip, that fabric is a bleeder and I don't recommend using it for inking. Test your fabrics at home, and take the marker with you to your fabric shops. They can give you a tiny swatch to test – after all, you just need the tiniest snip to dot test. A little bleed can be worked with, but as you test you will see how results will vary. Do yourself a favor and use fabrics that won't bleed much. Later, as you get accustomed to the process, you can probably work with more of a bleed.

We will be using muslins for some exercises. The bleached muslins bleed more than the natural finish ones, but test and see if you find one that isn't too bad if you really want a whiter surface. It's also very rich to work on commercially printed or hand-dyed fabrics, as the inks are translucent and so are very nice over a base color or texture. If you have a hard time finding a good textile marker at your local shops you can find many colors of them along with the other Tsukineko inking supplies at [www.jukeboxquilts.com](http://www.jukeboxquilts.com).