

Flowers of the Gorge (1 day)



Flowers have been an enduring source of inspiration for quilters; many traditional quilt blocks feature flower patterns. The remarkable array of miniature wildflowers that can be found in the Columbia River Gorge and surrounding hills of the Cascade Mountains inspired my series of flower designs. Based on the design and piecing techniques of Ruth McDowell, these designs take traditional patchwork a step further through the use of unexpected fabric choices. Join us in celebrating the beauty of flowers. We will learn the basics of Ruth piecing techniques and her fascinating use of fabrics.

Skill Level: Confident Beginner to Advanced

Pieced Flowers: Supply List

Selection from one of pieced flower patterns in my Flowers of the Gorge pattern series (available in class).

Fabrics

Before class, check out the quilts on my website, www.annshawquilting.com or Ruth McDowell's website, www.ruthbmcowell.com. Note the broad variety of fabrics used – large prints, medium prints, small prints, batiks, plaids, stripes, mottled fabrics, prints with multiple colors, bold fabrics as well as pastels. Having a wide variety of fabric choices is key to this style of quilt.

One half yard or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Small prints, medium prints, large prints, tie-dyes, plaids, stripes, mottled fabrics, prints containing 3 or more colors. Bring your bag of fabric scraps!! Lots of different fabric in seemingly odd combinations often work well. Your local quilt shop will also have a variety of fabrics that you will find useful in these patterns. Note that we will not be using solids or tone-in-tone fabrics that “read” as solids. We will be exploring how to use patterned fabrics in various ways to help carry and enhance the look of the pieced quilt.

Fabric choices for this style of quilts are often not necessarily “pretty” fabrics. You may want to investigate sources beyond traditional quilt shops. Ruth's blocks feature a broad range of fabric

choices; her books and website (www.RuthBMcDowell.com) are an excellent visual guides to the fabrics you should bring to class. You can also take a look at the quilts on my website (www.annshawquilting.com) for ideas about the kinds of fabrics useful in these designs.

You will also need the following supplies:

For Freezer Paper Template:

Freezer paper

Pencils/Eraser/Pencil Sharpener

Ruler (18" plastic is ideal)

Paper Scissors

Blue Masking Tape

Sharpie brand Ultra Fine-line permanent marker (Black only!)

Highlighters (several colors)

Colored pencils (variety of colors for making tick marks)

(NOTE: Ink pens, Gel pens, Sharpie Markers or Crayons will not work)

Design Wall: Bring to class a foam design board (30"x40" or larger).

They are inexpensive and can be found at your local office supply store.

You will be pinning your Master Design and template pieces to this as you audition individual fabric selections. Its then easy to carry your project home.

Sewing Supplies:

Pins (Lots and lots of pins!! 1" or longer are ideal)

Fabric Scissors

Basic Sewing kit

Rotary cutter, 14" or 18" cutting ruler and cutting mat

Several Ziploc bags (quart and gallon size)

Sewing machine and supplies (bobbins thread, needles etc). Depending on the design you choose, you may or may not reach the point of beginning to sew it together. Most students will be completing the fabric selections by the end of the workshop though will not begin sewing. Bring a sewing machine if its convenient, but leave it in your car initially. You should be comfortable using your machine. Check to be sure that it is in good working order.

Optional: Digital Camera If you have a small digital camera, bring it! Using eh caamera on your phone or tablet also work well and are helpful as you work on fabric selections.

Organizer Supply List:

Table space of at least 3'x4' per student (a full 30x60 standard size folding table is preferable)

Good lighting

Pencil sharpener

Whiteboard and marker

Waste basket

At least 2 irons and ironing boards

extension cords

Adequate outlets and fuses

Individual 30" x 40" foam boards for each student's work (or adequate design wall space)

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