

Concepts ...

Student News and Notes - Autumn 2016



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Hi Fellow Fabric-A-Holics and Textile Teachers,

Autumn already! ... and our thoughts turn to creativity with the stunning colours around us for inspiration. By looking INTO the colours of the leaves and rich tones of the flowers, and not just AT them, you'll see that the green of the trees is not just one green, and likewise the multitude of colours in the flowers or the countryside around us. Look at how the colours are now changing in the sky from the harsh brightness of summer to the softer pinks and golds of cooler evenings.

"I'm not confident in choosing colours" – or words to that effect – have been said to me a multitude of times during my wonderful life of 'working in colour'. Girls, we LIVE in a world of colour. Take photographs to remind you. Check out junk mail catalogues and see how heaps of towels or fabrics or cushions (or whatever else) are photographed. After all, the aim of the retailer is to sell the products, so they're going to make sure the photographer who puts these colours together does his (or her) job well. Let's enjoy the benefits of their expertise, and when we see combinations of colours that appeal to us, USE them! Keep in mind too that we KNOW what we like to wear, and what we surround ourselves with in our homes. All that instinctive knowledge can be drawn upon when needed for our creativity.



Silhouette Window, created using masking tape and stencil shapes, with background painted in Metallics – either Liquid Lustres or our metallic Flat paints.

Our Year till Now ... 2016 started with a bang via our Genesis Creations™ teacher training programs in January and February, here at my Toowoomba Studio. It's always an exciting time as our teachers come together to share new skills and ideas, and work on even more things to show you during our workshops and classes. Make sure you stay in touch to find out how you can catch up with these new skills. Hot on the heels of the training programs came Craft Alive show in Toowoomba ... and wow, what a boomer that was! Missed it this year? Craft Alive at Castle Hill Sydney followed on the weekend after the Toowoomba show. Then I was off to conduct workshops in Warwick, Coffs Harbour, Emu Plains, Singleton, and Chinchilla, as well as in my Toowoomba Studio. These have been super for sharing our ideas and techniques far and wide. Make sure I have your email address in my Contacts lists so I can let you know if I'm coming your way – or you can plan a program with me so I can come to you.

Missed Craft Alive Toowoomba this year? Don't you DARE miss it next year, if you're even remotely close to Toowoomba !!! Dates are 10 till 12 Feb 2017.

What's Happening Next? You'll find us at these EVENTS for the rest of the year:

Craft Alive – Tamworth – from Fri 9 till Sun 11 September, 10 am till 5 pm each day, at the Entertainment Centre.

- **FREE WORKSHOP/SEMINAR:** 11 am each day. We'll explore a bunch of creative ideas in this 45 minute presentation.
- **MAKE 'n' TAKE WORKSHOPS** – also FREE! – at our stand. With three sessions per day, there's plenty of opportunity to try some new skills or revisit old ones. Workshop times: 12.30 pm, 2 pm and 3.30 pm each day.

Jumpers and Jazz in July – Warwick – "Cool Scarves and Silly Socks" workshops from 22 till 25 July at 'Grafton Rose' during the festival. These events will also support Pink Bras and Blue Jocks charity.

Home Economics Conference - Brisbane – Saturday 6 August, at the Convention Centre. Then I'll be at the National Conference in Melbourne from 11 till 13 January 2017, with hands-on workshops to follow.

Craft Market and Hands-on Workshops – Toowoomba - Mon 19 till Wed 21 September, at St Stephens Uniting Church during the Carnival of Flowers.

On an unhappier note, I'm unable to be at the Mad Quilters' Gatherings at Penrith in 2016, due to prior commitments.

WORKSHOPS, WORKSHOPS, and MORE WORKSHOPS !!! ... Please check website for full details ...

MAY: Cairns – Thu 12 till Sun 15 – Pandanus House, Whitfield
Charters Towers – Wed 18 – Excelsior Library
Townsville – Sat 21 and Sun 22 – my 'home', Mundingburra
JUNE: Darwin – Wed 8 till Sun 12 – my 'home', Nakara
MELBOURNE workshops – yes, I'll be back in January 2017 !!!

TOOWOOMBA: at my home Studio, 4 Jull Drive
Wed 22 till Wed 29 June – a variety of topics
Sat 2 and Sun 3 July – Fabulous Fabrics: Advanced
Sat 27 and Sun 28 Aug – Basics
Sat 24 till Tue 27 Sept – details tba

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TALENT, using OUR PRODUCTS ...

Here's my painting technique for you for Autumn, using the leaves of the season for inspiration

LEAF PRINTING



You will need:

- Scrap paper
- Suitable brush
- Palette
- Your chosen paint – I have used our Liquid Lustres in these photos, except the grapes below which were done with our Flat paints

Choosing the leaf

Getting ready to play!

Method:

1. Choose leaves that have an interesting shape and vein pattern, and a 'furry' (not smooth) under side.
2. Place your chosen leaf, vein side up, on a piece of scrap paper and brush on the paint evenly – but not too thickly!
3. Flip leaf over positioning it carefully onto your fabric.
4. Cover with another piece of clean paper and rub your hand evenly over the leaf area.
5. Lift off paper and leaf – and your print is on the fabric!



Geranium prints, using Liquid Lustres, Gold and Copper, on black polycotton fabric



VARIATIONS:

☑ Enhance your design using stencils or other hand-painted details. Dragonflies at left were sponged on for interesting texture, through a detailed stencil created using our Stencil Burner of course!

☑ Grapes at right were created using finger prints, and our Flat paint range. "Grape" leaves were actually from my Rose of Sharon tree, but you could definitely use grape leaves if you had them.

☑ More of my favourite leaves: herbs work really well, chrysanthemums give wonderful snowflake shapes, strawberry leaves are great. Weeds can be excellent too!

See what you can find in your garden.



Unable to come to our classes or hands-on workshops?? You can learn our skills via my DVDs and handbooks. Each of the two DVDs has two hours of tuition, and is set up so you can watch the entire program 'straight through', OR click on the topic/s you wish to learn or revise. Our Handbooks are a perfect accompaniment to the DVDs, as they contain some information that is NOT on the DVD programs. Similarly there's information on the DVDs that cannot be covered adequately in a handbook. Here are the books available:

Fabulous Fabrics
Sensational Silk

Garments Galore
Papers with Personality

Instant Fabrics in the Microwave
Understanding Fabric Art

Make sure you watch for my FREE LESSON in these Concepts newsletters each season. My website will have the current edition, along with the three previous issues. If you'd like copies of newsletters prior to what is on the website, ask and I'll send you those I can. The lessons have been a relatively recent feature over the past 12 months.

Here's to getting together, in person or by phone or email, for lots more creativity! ...

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Anne

