

Concepts ...

Student News & Notes – Spring 2020

Free Motion Machining over tulips formed with layers of Water Soluble Resist



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Hi Fellow Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

While recently skimming through a huge line-up of inspiration in my bookshelves, I rediscovered an old 'friend' ... ***"Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy"*** by Barbara Johnson. It's spring! The geraniums are blooming. And I have a hat. Why not !?! In her preface to the book, Barbara asks if it IS possible to do just that. Her thoughts follow ...

"I know you can, no matter what happens. We all have to endure troubles in life. Sometimes we may go along for a while with just the common irritations and then, WHAM! A big problem hits, and we have a real valley experience. But I believe you grow in the valleys because that's where the fertiliser is."

2020 has truly been a 'valley' of a year, hasn't it! And as we keep hearing through the media, we are all in this Covid experience together. It has been – and will continue to be – extremely challenging. The 'valleys' have been deep; but people are finding 'fertiliser' to inspire them to do things, develop businesses and products that probably wouldn't have happened but for the adversities we have faced.

Good News on the Genesis Creations™ home front ...

- My Studio has become a much more pleasant place with new blinds and curtains, heaters to see us through Toowoomba winters. New LED lighting will be installed very soon.
- The back garden and patio – our outdoor spaces for many of our activities – have enjoyed a much-needed tidy-up, and blinds added to deter the breeze from blowing our fabrics and silk scarves asunder during workshops.
- My Web Workshop cameras and other necessities are up and running, and a few Zoom sessions have already proved very enjoyable – and successful.
- In the next week or two, you'll find I have a Facebook presence - about time too eh !?! Being at home base means I can easily keep it up to date.
- And in general I've really enjoyed the enforced time at home to GET ALL THIS DONE, after years of driving away or flying off to far distant places.

The EVEN BETTER NEWS? ... We no longer have to think about how far away you live for you to be able to attend a workshop! ... The advent of Zoom can bring us together, whether for my planned sessions, or personal tutoring. Just ask me and we'll schedule a time that suits us both. **Web Workshops are FREE**, and will be recorded for you to access them after the event if you are unable to 'attend' on the day, or would simply like to revisit what we've covered during our time together. More details about that soon.

WEB WORKSHOP DETAILS – Tuesdays at 10 am – FREE to ATTEND

SEPTEMBER 8 and 22

Innovative Technology for Fabric Design

The what, why, and how of using Liquid Radiance. You'll learn simple and stunning techniques on fabrics as well as a couple of garments

OCTOBER 6 and 20

Sensational Silk

Traditional silk painting techniques as seen in June *Embellish*, and a few extra fun things to do as well

NOVEMBER 3 and 17

Simply Stencilled!

I can't draw! I'll show you how to create your own stencils using our burner, and work with those shapes in several different ways

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL – Contact me ASAP – I'll send the Zoom link on the Friday before each session.



"The flowers that bloom in the spring tra-la" (from *The Mikado*, Gilbert and Sullivan.)

Stencils, marbles and water soluble resist used above to create our own florals on fabric using three different designing techniques

Where to Find Me till the end of 2020 ... I'll be in my home Studio in Toowoomba. With Covid restrictions now spreading across SE Queensland, and as my husband Alan and I are in the vulnerable age category, I shall need to postpone any workshops formerly planned for September. We then wait and see what will happen for the rest of the year. Please check my website for details of programs from October till December. But for now, Zoom, here we come.

STOP PRESS: After an invitation from the Home Economics (Aust) executive team, I'll be conducting Zoom workshops for their members as part of a Professional Development program. Textiles teachers, watch for information from HEIA re these coming workshops. My sessions are happening in late September and early November this year.

And 2021? With so many aspects of this virus and its ability to spread still unknown, I shall also put my travel plans to Sydney and Bundaberg, and to the Sunshine Coast on hold until further notice. Again, watch this space!

Events Postponed till Next Year, to go ahead if Covid conditions permit in 2021 ...

- **Quilt Connect with Qld Quilters** – at the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds, Brisbane in late April or early May 2021.
- **Highfields Creative** – at the Smart Space, Highfields State School in July. New dates to be advised.
- **Home Economics National Conference** – Brisbane Convention Centre, now Mon 27th till Wed 29th Sept 2021.
- **Toowoomba Quilters' Exhibition** – at the Salo Centre, St Ursula's College, during Carnival of Flowers in late September.
- **Brisbane Craft and Gift Fair** – Sleeman Sports Centre, Chandler – early October (dates to be confirmed).



EMBELLISH EXCITEMENT! – an image from my Layers project makes a very spectacular front cover for the September issue !!! This oh-so-simple layering and mopping up technique creates unbelievable results by colouring just two pieces of fabric and strategically placing salt to end up with three or four pieces that will go together perfectly for your patchwork, dressmaking, and home décor projects. Follow the rules as you see them in my article, then try other combinations for simply stunning results.

Back issues with my previous articles are still available from us at **\$9.00 per magazine**. Magazines will be \$11.50 (newsagents price) from the September issue onwards – their first price rise in 10 years. Our price to you, my students, will be \$11.00 with any other order for our goodies.

Making the Most of Our Painting Techniques ... LEAF PRINTING ... let's rejuvenate an old favourite, and build up a design from that ...

Springtime is a great season to be out in the garden. Let's go hunting for some suitable leaves (including weeds) to help us with our creativity. You'll need leaves with a slightly furry reverse side, and an interesting vein pattern.

Go grab a geranium and stick the flower in your hat, then pick a handful of different sized leaves. They'll be perfect for printing. Other leaf favourites? Pineapple sage, chrysanthemums, hibiscus, many different herbs, dandelions, long grasses ... see what else you can find. Pick them with a little bit of stem to act as a 'handle'. Place them between layers of damp paper towel to keep them fresh for working. Dry, crackly leaves are not suitable for printing.

METHOD:

1. Rest your leaf vein side upwards on some scrap paper then paint your chosen Flat paint (or Liquid Lustre) onto the leaf using a softish hog's hair bristle brush, or our Elite brush #4 or #6..
2. Flip the painted leaf over and position it on your fabric.
3. Cover it with another sheet of clean old paper and rub your hand evenly over the entire area. Carefully lift leaf of the fabric.
4. Build up your design as desired, leaf by leaf, repeating the steps above.

SETTING THE PAINT: Leave Flat paints for three days to cure in the fabric before washing, but prints are dry in just a couple of minutes so you can continue working without fear of smudges. When using Liquid Lustres, heat set by ironing for ½ minute when prints are dry.



In these crazy, uncertain and ever-changing times, keep safe and well, girls. Our thoughts are especially with those of you in Victoria right now.

Remember to stick a geranium in your hat and be happy! Can't find a geranium? A rose or daisy, or tulip or pansy, or ...well, whatever you can find ... will work too.

Keep on having fun with your creativity! Make some much-needed masks using fabrics that are exclusively yours using colours that are exclusively ours. There are plenty of mask patterns around for doing this at the moment. And remember I'm as close as email or phone whenever you'd like help, or just to talk.

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Enjoy the warmth of spring ...

Anne

