

# Concepts ...

## Student News & Notes - Summer 2019/2020

Rainbow Spiral - colour intensity achieved by 'cooking' in the microwave



FROM: Anne Mitchell (Owner)  
PO Box 2340, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Mobile 0418 771 808  
Email: [anne@genesiscreations.com.au](mailto:anne@genesiscreations.com.au)

Phone 07 4613 4426

Hi Fellow Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

**NEW DECADE ... NEW DIRECTION ...** Another year has flown by at breakneck speed, slowed just a little in the past couple of months by my cataract surgery and 'time out' for the necessary healing to take place - time out well spent in sorting and putting away gear in my Studio, bringing a new meaning to 'spring cleaning'. So SUMMER, here we come. The Studio is ready to become our 'haven of creativity' (mine, and hopefully yours too) for our workshops and classes in the years ahead. Happy to report all is super good with my eyes! Can't wait now for 2020 to arrive, and the workshops I have planned for us to be in full swing.

**Teaching from home base ...** will give us so many more opportunities to share skills way beyond what I can carry in my car! The clean-up has also 'unearthed' loads of inspirations from way back, and I'm excited about adding these long-neglected techniques to the topics for our workshops.

**Travel not totally off the agenda ...** my Mazda CX5 would feel unloved and wonder what to do with itself if I didn't take it for a road trip occasionally. Mostly, my travels will be confined to within a three-hour drive from Toowoomba (except on special occasions).

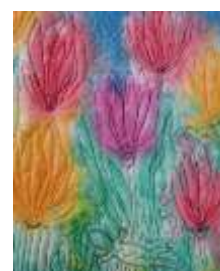
**Major craft shows definitely off the agenda ...** you will no longer find us at Craft Alive events or other major craft shows. I think age and 'getting sensible' - and all the preparation and packing - have finally caught up with me. But make sure you still GO to Craft Alive when it comes your way. It's a great event - just don't look for me there. I'll be at home or elsewhere 'doing our thing'.

**Quilting events and local craft fairs ...** will be features in my program during the year. I'm delighted to be involved by invitation or sponsorship at Quilt Connect in Brisbane (30 April till 2 May), Toowoomba Quilters Exhibition during Carnival of Flowers (19 till 25 September), and Quota Craft and Gift Fair in Brisbane (9 till 11 October). Home Economics National Conference is always a priority too (28 till 30 September in Brisbane). Check my website Events calendar for event details.

**Now to 2020 ... let the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations continue ...** after 'losing' three months of this year (2019) for my eye surgery and recovery, I have decided to extend our celebrations until our 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Bi-monthly specials will also continue. Check the 'What's New' page of the website so you don't miss out on any of the bargains and special offers.

**Next Celebration Workshops ... planning ahead ... 10 am till 3 pm ...**

- Toowoomba - Sundays 9<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - my Studio
- Sydney (Emu Plains) - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, after workshop program (18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June)



ALL THESE, and  
LOTS, LOTS  
MORE!

### COMING TO MY PLACE TO PLAY

There's lots of accommodation close to my Studio in Toowoomba at a wide range of prices to suit all budgets. And if you're planning to come with a group, ask me about the four bedroom, two bathroom short term rental home close to us that is perfect for up to 6 people.

Cost works out at around \$50 per person per night for 5 or 6 people sharing. Ask me for more information when planning to come my way.

I have booked this house regularly for our events. Those sharing have always been delighted with the convenience, and enjoy having a real home instead of the confines of a motel room.

**Next hands-on workshops ... still at HALF PRICE for our Celebrations ...**

**Toowoomba: Fabulous Fabrics** - 6 till 8 Feb, then 5 till 7 March - one-day workshops

**Toowoomba: Teacher PDs** - 22, 23 and 29 Feb, and 1 March - half-day programs

**Toowoomba: Fabric Designing (incl Microwave Techniques), Fantastic Flat Painting, Traditional Silk Painting and Free Motion Machine Quilting** - 25 Mar till 2 Apr - one and two-day programs - in-depth workshops on all topics. Choose to come for single topics, or attend all nine days for a ridiculously low price during our celebrations!

**Workshops with Quilting and Craft Groups and Teachers by invitation** - Woody Point, Millmerran, Lismore, and Beenleigh - during February, March and April

**Eidsvold and Bundaberg** - 20 till 27 May - funded workshops with indigenous ladies' groups and high school students

**Sydney** - Fabulous Fabrics and Teachers' PDs - 18 till 20 June, at the Function Room, Ingensia Park, Emu Plains

**Sunshine Coast** - Open House and Workshops - August - dates on website soon



**The Embellish excitement continues ...** It has been delightful to be welcomed into the Artwear Publications family! (Yes, they have more magazines than *Embellish*.) I have now been given the themes for their next FIVE issues; so from June 2020, you'll find my projects on an on-going basis. I aim to explore beyond what I teach in our basic workshops so each edition offers something new to stimulate both their readers and you guys, my students. Back issues with my previous articles are still available from us, and at a special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary price of \$7.50 per magazine until end of June 2020. [Price will then return to \$9.50]. Click on the link on my website for the topics and magazines available, or ask me to send you the details.

Image above from *Embellish* Issue 37 'Microwave Masterpieces', Chrysalis colouring technique. The piece of fabric top left shows fabric dried naturally while the bottom right piece has been 'cooked' in the microwave. Important to follow 'the rules' though, so you don't end up with burnt fabric !!! Next "Instant Fabrics in the Microwave" workshop – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – full day program. Book now. You'll LOVE it !!!

**Great News for Toowoomba and Darling Downs Locals ...** this year I have been invited to sponsor three NEW categories for the Handicrafts section of the **Toowoomba Royal Show** in March. The Show Society sets award values, and I have donated vouchers for our goodies as prizes. Having been involved with the Sunshine Coast Show all my life (even as a kid) until we moved to this area 16 years ago, shows have always been in my blood; so I am now very happy to support the local event, and of course hope YOU will find an entry (or several) to put into 'our' classes:

- 5072 – hand painted or hand dyed garment. Can be commercially made garment.
- 5073 – hand painted or hand dyed home décor.
- 5074 – Any other article made from hand painted or hand dyed fabric.

**Entries close Tue 11 Feb, and are accepted on line only:**  
[www.showdayonline.com](http://www.showdayonline.com)

I've been telling the chief steward how good my students are! Please back me up on this and get your entries in !!! Thanks.

**MAKING THE MOST OF OUR PAINTING TECHNIQUES ... Working with SUGARS!**



Sugar on silk scarves

Most of us are familiar with salting on fabrics, and love it. Sugars are equally addictive (and not fattening at all when used in fabric designing!) I enjoy the 'spookiness' and 'dotty-ness' of the effects that sugars create - and just as different salts produce different effects, so will different sugars. Soooo ... look into your pantry and see what you can find. Raw sugar, white sugar, caster sugar (finer markings because the grains are smaller), maybe coffee crystals, brown sugar, and Hundreds and Thousands!

Comparing the two blue/green pieces at left, when salt is used, each grain of salt draws the colour to it and the colour stays in the fabric after rinsing [top corner]. When using sugars, the grains dissolve in the wet colour and remove that colour from those areas when rinsed [main piece].

Sugars therefore MUST be applied sparingly so not too much colour is removed. Note the handy 'applicators'. Spice bottles are great for controlling both salts and sugars, and of course the little sachets are excellent too. If you haven't collected any spice bottles yet, put the sugar in the palm of your hand and sprinkle it on with your fingers – gently, grain by grain – so you don't overdo it.



Comparing salt and sugar

**METHOD:**

1. Colour your fabric by whatever technique you wish.
2. Sprinkle on sugar and allow to dry.
3. Rinse in clean water – three times to make sure all sugariness is removed.
4. Iron to heat set.

**EXTRA INFORMATION:** How the sugars will work will depend on the thickness (or fineness) of your fabric, and the amount of moisture in it. When rinsing, expect some colour 'stain' to be in the water. It is inactive colour so will not affect the end result. When using Hundreds and Thousands, your fabric will usually look really ugly as the fabric dries and the food colouring comes out of the little balls.

But if you like it that way, sorry, you're out of luck! This extra colour is removed during rinsing, as it IS just food colouring. And finally, let's think of the age-old rule: working with SALT is at best random. It's the same with SUGARS! And just as much fun.



Sugar on polycotton

**The silk scarves (top left of this section) are some of my favourite accessories to pop on over a plain t-shirt, then by adding a gold chain I'm transformed into a well-dressed woman ☺ !!!.** But hey, for my workshops, we don't 'dress up'. Casual and comfortable is what to wear at my place. Hope you can come to play and learn soon ...



*Anne*