

Concepts ...



Student news & Notes - Winter 2022

Salt Mountains - as seen in my project
in *Embellish* magazine June '22

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Hi Fellow Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

Winter? COOL! Summer? WARM! Seasons and colours are so closely related, and it's exciting to explore that relationship in our creativity. Working in analogous colours produces clean, clear effects, as in the 'Mountains' above. Analogous colours are those that are side-by-side on the Colour Circle. The cool colours are the greens through blues and into purple – makes sense really doesn't it!? - the colour of sea water, and deep ice and sky. The yellows, oranges and reds are the colours of sun and heat – yes the warm ones. I have a simple way of looking at colours, and it works for me. I'm sure as you read this you'll 'hear' my quick and easy philosophy loud and clear.

By using *either* cool *or* warm in techniques like Fold, Splot and Scrunch, or Fabric in a Jar, or Salt Mountains, the colours will remain clean and clear and not end up murky. These are all techniques where there is usually lots of blending and merging of colours as we work. When using colours that are separated on the colour circle in these techniques, we often find they will end up in browns or 'plasticine grey' as they mix together. Think of what happened to your plasticine or Playdoh when you were kids!

Another of my favourite hints, great for techniques where you are not 'smooshing' the colours together too much as you work – for example Five Finger Foam Brush, Spray Painting, Water Soluble Designing – is to start with an analogous series then add a touch of colour from the opposite side of the circle. If you are working in the purple side of the circle, add a touch of yellow or orange. When working in greens add a touch of red or magenta/pink. Putting this into practice will make your work zing and bring it to life. Colours on opposite sides of the circle are known as complementary colours, and MIXING any two complementaries will produce browns – the perfect shadow colour when blending and making colours flow from one into the other in many design techniques. Be aware to NOT use equal amounts of complementaries in a project though, as doing that will allow neither to shine. They will fight each other for dominance. So lots of purple with a little yellow, or lots of green with a little red (or vice versa for each of those colour groups) will achieve superb results.

I know there's so much more to colour theory than just that, but those simple thoughts have been my 'go to' for many years. When the artist in you wants to take it further, there's plenty of information 'out there', available for you to explore. HAVING FUN with colour is our aim, and to do it YOUR WAY is what makes *your* fabric designing *uniquely yours*.

Thinking about my Website and YouTube channels ... with time to rethink my teaching programs during Covid lockdowns and inability to travel, I have been able to develop **an education system to help you wherever you are, and whenever you want**. New videos and notes will appear as developed - it will be an on-going process. Make sure you check in regularly. The side benefit of all this is not driving long distances these days, and not packing and unpacking 300 kilos of gear into my car. You can click into the skills at times to suit yourself. AND I'm at home to give you personal help by phone or email – or Zoom sessions. Please contact me.



Yes, Zooming! ...what amazing technology this is for us to get together in workshops and private sessions, all over the world. Something else you need to know – though you only get to see my top end, I'm always respectably dressed below the waist too ☺, including my footwear. Presentation is what it's all about, and in fact I cannot offer a good workshop session mentally if I'm not well presented physically. Zoom workshops will ALWAYS be free for you to attend. Check the Events page of the website for details, and register so I can send you the link for your chosen session/s. **What's happening next? ... Please turn the page ...**



I love this simple Colour Circle. Hope you learn to love it too. Download it from my Website, with its notes – hop into the Ed Centre, click on the Web Workshops page, and scroll down to the 'First Aid Kits' below the videos. Get into the Ed Centre, explore, and HAVE FUN!

Web Workshops via Zoom (WWs) ... June till August 2022 ...

- **Advanced Silk Painting: Working in Layers** – a full day prac, from 10 am until 3 pm (ish) until our projects are complete – Thursday 9 and Saturday 11 June. Same workshop each day. Some silk painting knowledge is advisable for you to be able to conquer the skills on this very 'different' day.
- **PDs for Textiles and Art Teachers – Next program - Sunday 3 and Tuesday 5 July** - 10 am Basics, and 2 pm Extensions [Brisbane times]. This workshop was presented hands-on from Townsville to the Gold Coast and places between during the HEIAQ Regional program in 2018, to great acclaim from participants. It is my pleasure to be able to again bring it to you via Zoom, as I have done in the past two years, still receiving excellent feedback from your colleagues. Each session is demo style, approx 90 minutes in duration. Numbers are limited for best interaction during our discussions. **TO REGISTER: phone 0418 771 808, or email me.** NOTE: This workshop will be repeated on Sun 4 & Tue 6 Sept. Same program each day.
- **"In Focus" WWs** – Stencilling? WAY MORE than just Stencilling! – Thu 21 and Sat 23 July
- **"In Focus" WWs** – Topic 1 – Sun 21 & Tue 23 Aug | Topic 2 – Thu 25 & Sat 27 Aug. Keep the dates for now.

What Else is Happening? ... LIVE! Yes I'll be there in attendance! ... June till September ...

- **Traders' Table and Demos** – Gold Coast Quilters – Wed 22 June | Qld Quilters – Wed 13 August (both meetings)
- **'A Taste of Fabric Designing' workshop** – Kenilworth Art and Craft Group – new date Wed 27 July – postponed from May because of floods.
- **HEIAQ State Conference** – display and trade table – Sat 13 August - Brisbane Convention Centre
- **Toowoomba Quilters' Exhibition** – display and demos – Sat 17 till Fri 23 September, during the Carnival of Flowers. Don't miss this magnificent event – get here if humanly possible!



More Live Workshops back in my Studio in October ...

It was a pleasure to have the girls from Toowoomba Quilters Art Group in my Studio for their 'Taste of Creativity' recently, when their usual hall was unavailable for our use on election day. Thanks for coming, girls. Hope you have lots of great results ironing your samples from the workshop! [Image has been cropped – I had a studio-ful of enthusiastic ladies on the day !!!]

My October Hands-On Workshops will run from Thu 13 till Wed 19 October, 9.30 am till 4 pm each day. Topics include Fabric Designing with Liquid Radiance, Traditional Silk Painting, Stencilling and other Textural Techniques, plus using Metallics and Pearls. Come for the entire program, or choose your topics. Full details and registration form are on my website, Events page. These workshops are FREE this year, with a materials fee per day to cover items I provide. Book SOON. Numbers will be limited to 6 per day, but with maximum 4 for a couple of topics.

Making the Most of our Painting Techniques ... Continuing the Colour Discussion ...

When I started my colour journey all those years ago, I was not confident in choosing colours for my projects. Hard to believe now, I know; but I remember it well. I would flip through magazines and junk mail looking for colour combinations that appealed to me. In reality, what goes into print MUST have eye appeal to attract people, and I figured those preparing the publications would have a few clues that I didn't have



back then. I still have many of the clippings from the mags, smiling now at the use of analogous and complementary colours in the ads and photos, and the balance in what has become instinctive for me with practice. And it will for you too. Let's check out a couple of examples in these images ...

R: lots of magenta & red with just a little green for the background, using marbles & rubber bands to form the flowers
L: Lots of blues with a touch of yellow & orange in a Salted Sandwich (two of its layers shown)



May I encourage you to look at the sunset, the landscape, the play of the ocean waves breaking on rocks, ...the 'whatever' ... and notice things with 'seeing eyes'. We don't have to 'be confident in using colour' if we but look at what is around us and pick up a few clues along the way. Hope my thoughts help. Here's to many more creative years working together in colour ...



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Scan the QR code to go straight to the website

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