

Concepts ...

Student News & Notes - Autumn 2020

"Bubbles" in Free Motion Machine Quilting - stitched on a 'tortoise shell mop-up'



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Hi Fellow Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

TRANSFORMATION! Ah what a pleasure it has been to enjoy the company and creativity of like minded friends, teachers, and students in my Toowoomba studio for the past two months! With people coming from Charters Towers and Darwin in the north to Port Macquarie and Inverell in the south – and many places in between – it has proven to me that this change of focus to teaching from home is wonderful! I know the pleasure will remain as the years roll on.

The Studio has benefitted from it's transformation too ... with new vinyl flooring, and pelmets awaiting curtains to be hung, we'll have better insulation from the cool winters; and new fans are in place for comfort in summer. The big clean-up after the dust storms late last year has also provided an opportunity to reshuffle gear on my shelves and in drawers. It has also been exciting to rediscover samples of colouring and design techniques from years ago and reintroduce them into my teaching-from-home programs. Life 'on the road' to conduct workshops in far flung places was good for the past twenty years; but living at home and teaching in my updated Studio is now DEFINITELY where this 75 year old loves to be. 2020 has started with a bang; and the rest of the year is already looking very exciting.

LAST CHANCES ... if my theme for the whole year is 'transformation', the buzz word for the next few months is 'last chances'. Our extended 20th Anniversary Celebrations end on 30th June, so this will be your ...

- Last chance to attend workshops in my Studio at HALF PRICE or less
- Last chance to organise group workshops for your quilting or craft group at CRAZY PRICES (even less than half price - ask for details)
- Last chance to enjoy the benefit of BI-MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERS on our products (check out the "What's New" page of my website)

Next program of HALF PRICE WORKSHOPS ... 25th March till 2nd April ...

brings a fresh new line-up of topics as well as 'old favourites' for you to learn, from a bunch of our fabric designing skills to traditional silk painting and free motion quilting. Ask me to email details to you, or find them on the "Events" page of the website. Bookings close on 13th March so get in quickly! A couple of sessions are already booked out. Similar workshops are planned for May and June before the crazy prices end. Check those out on the website soon.

PLEASE NOTE these WORKSHOP CANCELLATIONS for Sydney (Emu Plains) in June and Eidsvold/Bundaberg in May. I am unable to conduct these programs due to circumstances beyond my control. Why not travel to me in Toowoomba instead?! Everything is here waiting for us to be creative in my Studio, and I can keep fees to a minimum that way too (even when we return to the 'correct prices' after 1st July).

SPECIAL OFFERS for March and April ... here's an opportunity to enjoy the rich, warm

colours of Autumn with our Liquid Lustres, designed (by me) as perfect partners for Liquid Radiance when used in combination with each other. By mixing and blending, you can create hundreds of colour variations [see Japanese Maple leaves on right]; or by using the Lustres on their own, design luxurious enhancements for your hand-coloured fabrics. [Pic on left: dragonflies sponged through a stencil, and lantana leaves printed in Liquid Lustre gold.]

Liquid Lustre Pack - \$58.00 (a saving of \$9.50 on full retail value).

Individual colours: Gold, Silver, Copper and Pearl – just **\$13.50 each**

BRUSH TUB with LID – care for your brushes as you paint - **\$12.00.**

These special prices apply until end of May 2020.



COMING FROM AFAR?

There's a wide variety of accommodation close to my Studio in Toowoomba 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, on a minimum of two nights booking. 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 limitations of a motel room.

QUILTING EVENTS, LOCAL CRAFT FAIRS, and TEACHERS'

CONFERENCES ... huge thanks to the organisers of these events for their invitation to present demonstrations along with displays of what we can achieve with our paints, colours and design techniques ...

- Quilt Connect with Queensland Quilters - 30 April till 2 May – Mt Gravatt Showgrounds
- Highfields Creative – Wednesday 1 July – Smart Space, Highfields SS
- Toowoomba Quilters Exhibition at Carnival of Flowers - 19 till 25 September – Salo Centre, St Ursula's College
- Quota Craft and Gift Fair - 9 till 11 October – Sleeman Centre, Chandler
- Home Economics National Conference - 28 till 30 September – Brisbane Convention Centre



Check my web calendar for event details.



Wish I could show you 'the fish', but that is under wraps until June. Butterflies are perfect for learning these silk painting skills at my hands-on silk workshops. Next one? 1st and 2nd April in my Studio.

The EMBELLISH EXCITEMENT grows bigger and bigger! ... and I shall be writing for this magazine for as long as I want to (or they need me), it seems. The themes for the on-going editions are pinned to my notice board, and deadlines for sending in projects and articles are firmly in place. **Next edition? June this year. Theme? Fiji.** I have chosen to do colourful fish in traditional silk painting techniques, simplified with our modern paint technology. This former English teacher is revelling in the challenge of putting what I love to do into words and images for everyone to enjoy. In each article, I aim to explore beyond what is taught 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 at a special **20th Anniversary price of \$7.50 per magazine** until end of June 2020. Price will then return to \$9.50. [Newsagents' price - \$9.95, but I don't 'do' 95s! Click on the link on my website for the topics and magazines available, or ask me to send you details.

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR PAINTING TECHNIQUES ... Transformations! Do you have something in your wardrobe that needs a make-over? Maybe a stain? Or have you found a pair of fabric shoes that you love, but are the wrong colour? Let's transform them! And what about your fabric stash?! Are there fabrics that just don't go with your



project, or are a bit dated? Let's work on those too to give them a whole new life. Whether

brushing the colours on (as for the shoes), or spraying them on (as for the black and white pants – I love working on b and w!), or using whatever method of colouring to suit your fabric or garment, be careful not to make the transformation too 'busy'. You want the end result to be classy, not brassy. After all, it's your opportunity to express your personal style !!!

SHOES were coloured by preparing LR concentrate with lots of water – check colour strength by dabbing it onto tissue – then brushing it on evenly using a firm synthetic brush. To heat set things like this that cannot be ironed, use a hair dryer up close. (With shoes, be careful not to melt the glue though.) Use this heat setting method for delicate lingerie or other synthetic fabrics you're nervous about ironing.

SPRAY PAINTING – work with the spray nozzle adjusted to deliver the colour about the width of your hand when you are working about the length of your hand away from your fabric or garment. Use a firm trigger action for best results. Clean sprayers immediately after use by squirting clean water through them, and wiping away any dried colour with a damp cloth or old toothbrush.

Mmmm, the garment on left is what I'm wearing on right! It's now about eight years old and still going strong after all these years of washing and loving. Hope you can come to play and learn soon; but if you can't, remember I'm always as close as my phone or emails and ready to help you. Here's to lots more years of creativity together !!! ...



Panty hose and buckets with weights in them (stones or whatever you can find) prevent the rayon pants from flapping around on a windy day.

