



Categories include:

- ❖ Art Quilting p. 1
- ❖ Breaking Out and Stretching Yourself p. 3
- ❖ Color p. 4
- ❖ Decorative Stitch and Free-Motion Embroidery p. 5
- ❖ Drawing, Design inspiration and Creativity p. 6
- ❖ Hawaiian Appliqué p. 9
- ❖ Machine Appliqué p. 10
- ❖ Machine Quilting and Design p. 11
- ❖ Miscellaneous Cool Stuff p. 13
- ❖ Painting and dyeing fabric p. 14

Be sure to check related areas; some books could easily fit into several areas (for example, one book could be in art quilting, painting, breaking out, or design inspiration!). All this good stuff weaves together into what we love to do!

### Art Quilting:

Carlson, Susan; Free-Style Quilts, C&T Publishing, . Good collage techniques

Kemshall, Linda and Laura Kemshall. The Painted Quilt: Paint and Print Techniques for Color on Quilts. David and Charles Ltd., 2007 Be still my heart! Inspiration, eye candy, and plenty of techniques to learn and try. Linda and Laura are some of the foremost art quilters working and teaching today. This book and the thrfold journal (see separate listing above) are some of the most useful and inspiring things I've seen in the past few years.

Laporte, Gul, ed.; Quilts from Europe, C&T Pub. Without the "baggage" of so much quilt history as in the US, quilters in Europe, Australia and New Zealand are doing some of the most wonderful innovative work out there.

McDowell, Ruth B. Art and Inspirations, pub by C&T Pub. Any of her books are worth looking at and, if it's your style to piece intricate designs, worth owning. I've come to realize this isn't the way I want to make my quilts, but I love having read how she does it so I can adapt....

Meech, Sandra. Creative Quilts: Inspiration, Texture and Stitch. Batsford, 2006. ISBN 978 0 7134 9006 3. A book for self-study, with plenty of inspiration in Sandra's photos and quilts. ----- Contemporary Quilts: Design Surface and Stitch. 2007. Serious eye candy! ----- Connecting Art to Stitch. 2009. More about the art behind the art quilts...can't wait to try the exercises!

Newman, Velda: A Workshop with Velda Newman (C&T Pub) and Velda Newman: A Painter's Approach to Quilt Design (pub by Fiber Studio Press) --eye candy and some useful techniques for painting and inking on fabric.

Sassaman, Jane. The Quilted Garden, C&T Pub.. Showcases Jane's distinctive style and explains her appliqué technique.

Scherer, Deirdre, Work in Fabric and Thread (C&T pub). Technically she doesn't make quilts, but the wonders she works to turn thread and cloth into portraits translates directly---a born artist.

Testa, Melanie. Inspired to Quilt: Creative Experiments in Art Quilt Imagery. Interweave Press, 2009. A great look into Melanie's methods including two-layer/sheer overlays, dyeing, painting, printing and other techniques.

## Breaking Out/Stretching Your Mind

Books and journals to help you move from traditional to contemporary and art quilts

Bresenhan, Karey Patterson, editor. Creative Quilting: the Journal Quilt Project. Quilting Arts, LLC, 2006. . A book to savor, browse and enjoy, but not a project book. The hundreds of 8 ½ x 11 inch quiltlets in this book summarize the art of art quilting in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Cummings, Sandi, with Karen Flamme. Thinking Outside the Block: Step by Step to Dynamic Quilts. C&T Publishing, 2004. ISBN 1-57120-238-2. Largely using piecing techniques that will be familiar to traditional quilters, this books guides you into the world of designing and playing with your own free-form blocks.

Davila, Jane and Elin Waterston: Art Quilt Workbook. C&T Publishing, 2007. ISBN 978-1-57120-377-9. These exercises were tested in the classroom, and the careful preparation shows. I especially like the website links they provide for further self-education—you get to go visit the websites of artists who use the techniques taught so you better understand the possibilities.—and “artists to study.” The best way to make good art quilts is to look at good art!

Hire, Dianne. Quilters Playtime: Games with Fabric. American Quilter's Society, 2004. ISBN 1-57432-826-3. Teaches design through piecing improvisationally....just a lot of fun!

Meech, Sandra. Creative Quilts: Inspiration, Texture and Stitch. Batsford, 2006. ISBN 978 0 7134 9006 3. A book for self-study, with plenty of inspiration in Sandra's photos and quilts.

----- Contemporary Quilts: Design Surface and Stitch. 2007. Serious eye candy!

----- Connecting Art to Stitch. 2009. More about the art behind the art quilts...can't wait to try the exercises!

Quilting Arts Magazine. [www.quiltingarts.com](http://www.quiltingarts.com)

thr3fold, the journal of creative vision. The brainchild of Linda Kemshall, Laura Kemshall, and Catherine Nicholls. Available from [www.lindakemshall.com](http://www.lindakemshall.com) and <http://www.thr3foldjournal.com> although this journal is expensive in the US (mostly due to the exchange rate and postage), and I am often a tightwad, I have gladly spent my hard-earned quilting dollars for these phenomenal journals. They teach, inspire, and are worth every penny.

## Color

Finlay, Victoria. Color: A Natural History of the Palette. Intrepid journalist sets out on a trip around the world to visit the traditional sources of colors for the artists' palettes, such as lapis lazuli from Afghanistan for Michelangelo's blues and ochres from the Australian Outback. Just a fun read!

Itten, Johannes. The Elements of Color. Van Nostrand, Reinholdt Company, 1970. ISBN 0-442-4038-4. A very academic, art school approach to color, but invaluable in understanding color, value and the relationships of colors. This book and its antecedents have been widely read and taught in art school for half a century, and with good reason. If you want to really understand color and are willing to apply yourself academically, this is the place to start.

Menz, Deb. colorWorks: the crafter's guide to color. Interweave Press, 2004. ISBN 1-931499-47-0. Another great book about color, Deb gives examples in quilts, embroidery, knitting, weaving, beading, art cloth, collage and other "craft" media. Seeing the explanations applied to varied media is a lesson in itself about how the media affects the perception and use of color.

Pasquini Masopust, Katie and Brett Barker. Color and Composition for the Creative Quilter. C&T Publishing 2005. ISBN 1-57120-272-2. This slender book is a good introduction to basic color and design elements. If you've never studied art since kindergarten, this is a great way to start.

Wolfrem, Joen. The Magical Effects of Color. C&T Publishing, 1992. ISBN 0-914881-53-1 . ANY of Joen's several books on color are worth owning. This one is more academic in tone and approach, others of her books are more intuitive. They are all good!

## Decorative Stitch and Free-Motion Embroidery

Eddy, Ellen Anne. The Enchanted World of Ellen Anne Eddy. Fiber Studio Press / That Patchwork Place, 1997. Reprinted 2005 by Quilting Arts LLC. ISBN 1-56477-189-X. Use free-motion stitching to enhance or create images and shapes

Fahl, Ann. Coloring with Thread. C&T Publishing, 2005. ISBN 1-57120-296-X. This book focuses on machine embroidery, but the information on thread is equally good for quilting.

Smith, Sarah Ann. Threadwork Unraveled. AQS, 2009. ISBN 978-1574329995. Sarah's essential reference to using thread on the surface of a quilt!

© 2009 Sarah Ann Smith

## Drawing, Design inspiration and Creativity

### Design sources from outside the quilting industry:

Magazines with good photos such as National Geographic, Yankee, various photography and gardening magazines....

Dover Books with clip art and illustrations and the Dover coloring books for kids. Most are copyright-free or permit use without a copyright fee, and prices are modest—you can afford to buy a whole bunch. Some of the newer ones come with the designs on a CD-ROM so you can re-size the designs to fit your space on the computer, then print-out!

Art photography books...head to the library—these are usually quite expensive!

Look out the window, go for a walk. There are designs all around us in nature—use them!

Aimone, Steven. Design! A Lively Guide to Design Basics for Artists and Craftspeople. Lark Books, 2004. ISBN 1-57990-349-5. Textbooks on design tend to be dry and dull. This guide is indeed lively, and benefits from Aimone's willingness to include all sorts of art forms including quilts, pottery, garments and more.

Brodatz, Phil. Textures: A Photographic Album for Artists and Designers. Dover Publications, 1966. ISBN 0-486-40699-7. Black and white photos help isolate the patterns and rhythms in these photos, which may make it easier for you to translate these designs into quilting patterns.

D'Addetta, Joseph. Traditional Japanese Design Motifs. Dover Publications, NY, 1984. ISBN 0-486-24629-9. The Japanese have an unmistakable, and un-erring, sense of design and decoration. This book is one of many from Dover with Japanese motifs---pick one that speaks to you!

Edwards, Betty. The New Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain. Tarcher/Putnam 1979, 1989, 1999. ISBN 0-87477-424-1. If you buy just one book to help you learn to draw and create your own quilting designs, this should be it! I was skeptical that I could teach myself to draw from a book, but when two friends and I worked our way through the exercises (there is an optional companion workbook that makes it even easier to do the exercises), we dramatically improved—and none of us was poor to begin. Well worth the effort to read and do the practices!

Guptill, Arthur. Rendering in Pen and Ink, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ed. Watson-Guptill, 1997. ISBN 0-8230-4529-3. A textbook for sketching and lithography, this book will teach you how to use

line—translating the line into the quilting stitches--to create contours and shape in representational art quilts.

King, Stephen. On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft. Pocket Books, a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc. 2000. ISBN 0-671-02425-6. Although King writes about writing fiction, his words apply to any creative medium; he's also funny! If he weren't so screamingly successful at what he does, I would have said he'd missed his calling!

McCallum, Graham Leslie. 4000 Animal, Bird and Fish Motifs: A Sourcebook. Batsford 2005. ISBN 9 780713 489392 . 4000 images to serve as design inspiration beginning with drawings from the Stone Age through history to the Art Deco period.

----. 4000 Plant and Flower Motifs: A Sourcebook. Batsford 2004. ISBN 9780713489095.

----. 4000 Pattern Motifs: A Sourcebook. Batsford 2006. ISBN 978-713490237.

----. 4000 Alphabet and Letter Motifs: A Sourcebook. Batsford 2009. ISBN 978-0713490602.

Murphy, Pat and Paul Doherty; photography by William Neill. The Color of Nature. Chronicle Books, 1996 The Exploratorium. Talk about a visual feast----if the photography in this book doesn't inspire you, I don't know if anything will.....look for rhythm and repetition in the patterns of nature.

Nice, Claudia. Creating Textures in Pen and Ink with Watercolor. North Light Books, 1995. ISBN 0-89134-595-7. Think of it as creating texture with thread, an electric needle and cloth....

Nice, Claudia. Drawing in Pen and Ink (First Steps Series). North Light Books, 1997. ISBN 13-978-0-89134-717-0. Covers both drawing and, when you make the leap yourself, extrapolating to quilting design lines.

Petrie, Flinders. Decorative Patterns of the Ancient World. Bracken Books, London, 1995 (first published 1930). ISBN 1-85891-278-4. Probably my all time favorite books for inspiration for quilting designs. Motifs and ornaments in this book date from thousands of years ago up to the Byzantine era and circle the globe in their origins. There is nothing new under the sun! Currently available from Dover with ISBN 0486229866.

Tharp, Twyla. The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life. Simon and Schuster, 2003. ISBN 0-7432-3526-6. One of the top dancers of the twentieth century, as with Stephen King's book, her approach to dance can be applied to any creative endeavor. There is so much

From Sarah's Bookshelf

8

inspiration in this book I want to write an entire book on creativity and design in quilting and pepper it with quotations from this book!

© 2009 Sarah Ann Smith



## Hawaiian Appliqué

Arthur, Linda. At the Cutting Edge, Contemporary Hawaiian Quilting (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Island Heritage Publishing, 2002. ISBN 0-89610-373-0. Major eye candy!

Brandon, Reiko Mochinaga, curator. The Hawaiian Quilt. Honolulu Academy of the Arts, 1989.

Cesar, Mary H. Fruits and Plants of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Quilt Pattern Book.

Cevaal, Dijanne. Tifaifai Renaissance. Pride Publishing, 2002. ISBN 0957828918. Tifaifai is similar to Hawaiian appliqué, and Dijanne's designs are inspiring, and her recipes for dyeing your own fabric are great!

Jones, Stella M. Hawaiian Quilts. Originally published in 1930, revised 1995. Library of Congress Number 73-88714.

Rongokea, Lynnsay. The Art of Tivaevae: Traditional Cook Islands Quilting. Not Hawaiian, but similar and inspiring. University of Hawaii Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8248-2502-0

Root, Elizabeth. Hawaiian Quilting. Dover Needlework Series, 1989. ISBN 0-486-25948-X. My first efforts at hand appliqué came from this book, and the pillows are still on our bed!

Root, Elizabeth. Menehune Quilts...the Hawaiian Way. Published by ERDHI (Elizabeth Root Designs, Hawaii, Inc.), 2001. ISBN 1-885804-18-0. Beautiful designs and charming illustrations. She has a line of gift items with these illustrations that are wonderful.

Serrao, Poakalani and John. The Hawaiian Quilt: A Spiritual Experience. Mutual Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1-56647-172-9.

Shaw, Robert. Hawaiian Quilt Masterpieces. Published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc., 1996. ISBN 0-88363-396-5. A coffee-table picture book of antique Hawaiian quilts.

## Machine Appliqué

Eichorn, Rosemary. The Art of Fabric Collage. The Taunton Press, 2003. ISBN 1-56158-585-8. Raw edge appliqué, garment construction.

Ferrier, Beth. Hand Appliqué by Machine. Applewood Farm Publications, Inc., 2002. ISBN 0-9714654-2-8. For freezer-paper technique and more. Great book, great sense of humor!  
<http://www.applewd.com/>

Hargrave, Harriet. Mastering Machine Applique, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. C&T Publishing, 2001. ISBN 1-57120-136-X. Once again, Harriet has written the definitive book; this is my machine appliqué bible. If you were to buy one book on machine appliqué, make it this one. Then use your imagination to translate from the traditional quilts to contemporary and art quilt styles.

Pittman, Janet. Appliqué: The Basics and Beyond. Landauer Books, 2006. ISBN 13-978-1-890621-06-3. Comprehensive review of both hand and machine techniques, with great layout and design. I wish I had written this book!

Sassaman, Jane A. The Quilted Garden. C&T Publishing, 2000. ISBN 1-57120-103-3. Jane discusses both appliqué (fusible interfacing underneath style) and decorative stitch design.  
<http://www.janesassaman.com/>

## Machine Quilting and Quilting Design

Smith, Sarah Ann. Threadwork Unraveled. AQS/American Quilters Society, Paducah, KY, 2009. ISBN 978-1574329995. How to use thread on the surface of a quilt for appliqué, decorative stitch appliqué, free-motion stitching and machine quilting.

Cevaal, Dianne. Seventy Two Ways Not to Stipple or Meander (Ideas for Free Machine Quilting). Self-published, Gellibrand, Australia, 2006, and 72 MORE Ways Not to Stipple or Meander, 2008. Dianne uses Paypal, so you can order from her directly at [dcevaal@gmail.com](mailto:dcevaal@gmail.com) using your credit card from anywhere in the world. Shipping to the US, by airmail, takes about a week.

Cleland, Lee. Quilting Makes the Quilt. That Patchwork Place, 1994. ISBN 1-56477-075-3. Lee has made five versions each of 12 traditional pieced quilt tops---then quilted each top differently. That way, you can easily see how a quilt would look one way versus another.

Crust, Melody and Heather Waldron Tewell. A Fine Line: Techniques and Inspirations for Creating the Quilting Design. The Quilt Digest Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8092-9884-8. If I were to recommend just one book on quilting design, this would be it. Inspirational "eye candy" photography, useful "let's play quilt" exercises at the end of each section, and a thorough discussion of which threads to use for which purposes. This and Quilting with Style (Marston and Cunningham) are my "go to" books for design.

Eklow, Robbi Joy. Free Expression. Quilting Arts, LLC, 2004. About Robbi's distinctive pattern style, un-marked free-motion quilting, dyeing fabric, with good doses of Robbi's wonderful sense of humor.

Gaudynski, Diane. Guide to Machine Quilting. American Quilter's Society, 2002. ISBN 1574327968. Diane is one of the current masters of machine quilting, and everyone I know who has this book considers it indispensable. It has taken a well-deserved place next to Harriet Hargrave's book.

Hargrave, Harriet. Heirloom Machine Quilting (most recent edition). C&T Publishing. This book is a classic for a good reason---Harriet was at the forefront of quilters who said "it's OK to machine quilt, it's *good* to machine quilt." Her work helped legitimize this form of our art. She goes through all the mechanics of machine quilting, from basting to stitching. A must-have reference book.

Heine, Laura. Color Fusion: Fiberworks. Dragon Threads, 2001. ISBN 0-9641201-5-1. Eye candy from an innovative contemporary quilt artist. A good 20-page section on drawing with the machine needle and free motion machine "embroidery" (i.e. quilting) and embellishing.

Lehman, Libby. Threadplay with Libby Lehman. Quilter's Resource Inc., 2006 (second edition). ISBN 1-889682-49-7. Libby's book has been available for years and is now reprinted by QRI. Even if your style is more representational than abstract / traditional pieced, the information and how-to's in this book apply across the quilting spectrum.

Machine Quilting Unlimited magazine, published by Meander Publishing. [www.mqumag.com](http://www.mqumag.com). I am fortunate to be a columnist for them, but even after quilting by machine for 20 years, I still learn from each new issue.

Marston, Gwen and Joe Cunningham. Quilting with Style: Principles for Great Pattern Design. American Quilter's Society, 1993. ISBN 0-89145-814-x. Another classic, and with good reason. Plus, Gwen has a refreshingly common-sense, reasonable approach to creating and marking your own designs, from the most traditional to contemporary. This and A Fine Line are my "go to" books for design.

Miller, Phyllis D. Encyclopedia of Designs for Quilting. American Quilter's Society, 1996. ISBN 0-89145-887-5. A good compilation of fairly traditional quilting motifs, including information on how to draft your own designs within the parameters of traditional quilting.

## Miscellaneous cool stuff

Naylor, Philippa. Quilting in the Limelight: the Life, Art and Techniques of an Award-Winning Quilting. Dragon Threads, 2008. Eye candy with photos from the author's life in Saudi Arabia and England, showing how inspiration from the world around her is translated into her contemporary quilts. Based firmly in traditional quilting, she puts a creative, colorful twist and shares the how-to's.

Phillips, Charlene. The Sewing Machine Attachment Handbook. Krause Publications, 2009. Though focused on vintage machines, this book helps you identify what the attachment does and how to use it. Most modern machines have accessories and presser feet that function just the same way, so you can use it even if you don't have an old machine with old attachments. Covers rolled hem feet, zipper feet, welting feet, tuckers and rufflers, edge stitchers and lots more.

© 2009 Sarah Ann Smith

## Painting and dyeing fabric

Brackmann, Holly. The Surface Designer's Handbook: Dyeing, Printing, Painting and Creating Resists on Fabric. Interweave Press, 2006. ISBN 978-1-931499-90-3. A definitive and comprehensive guide to surface design, covering acid and fiber reactive dyes, discharging, screening, printing, stamping, stenciling, resist and more.

Eckley, Ginny. Fabric Painting. Martingale Co., 2000. ISBN 1-56477-295-0. Talks about dyes, paints, stencils, resists.

Lawler, Mickey. Skydyes: A Visual Guide to Fabric Painting. C&T Publishing, Inc., 1999. How to use Setacolor paints for skies and other wondrous things

Loughman, Gloria. Luminous Landscapes. C&T Publishing, 2007. ISBN 13: 978-1-57120-366-3. Includes a section on how Gloria paints skies and backgrounds for her landscape quilts.  
Vicki Johnson:

Johnston, Ann. Color by Accident: Low-Water Immersion Dyeing. Ann Johnston, Publisher, 1997. ISBN 0-9656776-0-5. Probably the single best book there is for someone new to dyeing fabric.

----. Color by Design: Paint and Print with Dye. Ann Johnston, Publisher, 2001. ISBN 0-9656676-1-3. A follow-on to her first book, and another classic.

Noble, Elin. Dyes and Paints: A Hands-On Guide to Coloring Fabric. Martingale Press, 1998. ISBN 1-56477-103-2