

fabric in the mind's eye

The Concept

The objective of the class is to create an image or idea from your mind. I created a simple “wearable art” pattern to achieve this. You will create a new piece of fabric using as many fabrics and embellishments in the project as you like, but only one fabric will be the “Theme” or signature fabric. The rest will be pieces you choose as association fabrics. Select a title for your piece before you start. I create pieces from events in my life or particular opinion I have on a subject.

Guidelines For Materials:

1. Existing ideas, patterns and processes are not cast in stone. Be an explorer of new ideas. Think outside the box and color outside of the lines.
2. There is no wrong fabric. Use cottons, satin, velvet, decorator fabrics, etc (just be comfortable sewing with the fabrics you choose). Choose large and small scale designs. You own both sides of the fabric. Use any side that you wish on the face of your garment. Think of your fabrics as ingredients for a special presentation that is uniquely you.
3. For embellishment use buttons, beads, old jewelry, ribbon, nuts and bolts. The ideas are endless.
4. *Have fun.*

The Pattern

The pattern you are going to use consists of (4) rectangles. They are the back panel (1 required), the front panel (2 required, 1 Left and 1 right), the sleeve (2 required) and the front tab (1 required). The lining will be a replica of the pattern pieces. The size of the rectangles will be determined by a sizing chart in the instructions. The finished project will be a piece of Wearable Art that you can wear or display on a wall.

Supply List

We will be working on the wall so you will need a piece of felt or flannel about 60” tall X 96” wide. Any napped fabric will work as long as your fabric will stick to it. I use felt.

1. **Sewing machine**
2. **Fabrics of your choice** (*The amount you need will depend on the size of your jacket and your design.*)
3. **Colored pencils** (*If you wish to sketch ideas on the design sheet.*)
4. **Sewing notions** (*Cutting board, straight edge and olfa style cutter, pins, thread, chalk markers and scissors, etc.*)
5. **Iron and ironing surface**

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it is an infinite journey.*

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about the artist

Sharon L. Baker is a freelance designer based in Eagle, Idaho. She spent thirty years in the engineering field involved in the designing of everything from sugarcane harvesters to mechanical dinosaurs. She began quilting in 1978 when she lived in Hawaii.

The whole aspect of Hawaiian quilting had a profound effect on her personal style and after experimenting with many different disciplines returned to that first quilting experience and built on the idea of free expression in design.

In 1989 she started creating wearable art as a substitute for quilts because of time constraints in her busy life.

her work has been exhibited in Art Galleries around the northwest

Designing wearable art using many of the principles of engineering is now her primary form of creative expression with fabric.

She has taught a variety of quilt classes in shops and at community college level in continuing education programs. Her work has been exhibited in art galleries in the

northwest and she was recently the featured artist in a television documentary about quilters.

legend of a coat. . .

The Secret Ingredient: Put in some little piece that says Aha!!

Finishing: The unfinished edges of the piece are bound like a quilt.

Title: Each piece is titled from a memory or an event in my life about something I have a passion for.

Pattern: The pattern is a series of rectangles. It is simple so complex designs can be created within the framework of each rectangle.

Theme Fabric: Choose a fabric that best suits the title chosen for the piece. Sometimes the fabric that chooses the title.

Construction: The construction like the pattern is simple to keep the focus on the design.

Embellishment: Add further dimension and complexity to the piece by using any manner of objects such as beads, ribbons, decorative top stitching, feathers, fishing tackle, etc. you are only limited by your imagination.

Associated Fabrics: Choose pieces that compliment the theme fabric. Sometimes it will be a few pieces, sometimes many, depending what it takes to create the image desired.

Lining: Choose a fabric or fabrics that complement the design.

This illustration shows sections of many pieces I have created. It does not represent a single garment, but shows the various components that make up the design.

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