

AFRICAN CLOTHS, COLORS AND QUILTS

Africa has a rich, varied textile heritage, including everyday cloths, attire and ceremonial garments. In this class we view slides and examples of the treasure trove of African textiles from Egyptian appliqué to woven Kente cloths and textured Shoowa velvets, to contemporary printed and embellished work. Using these sources of inspiration, students discover the exciting elements of improvisational African design and color and make their own quilt using piecing and appliqué, or embellishment if desired.

Class Length: 2, 3, 4 or 5 days

Materials List:

Sewing machine with normal sewing feet, extension cord, universal needles, neutral sewing thread.

Batting: approx 1 – 1 ½ x 1 m to use as design wall.

Pins, rotary cutter, mat and plastic ruler.

Fabrics: bring those that suggest the feel and flavor of Africa to you. You may work in earth colors, African indigo or the brights of modern urban Africa.

Bring solids, hand-dyes or almost solids, bold African prints, stripes, checks and visually textured fabrics in a good range of tonal values and some strong contrasts.

Pure cotton is good, but you may include some specialty African fabrics like mud cloth.

Preparation:

Look at every book you can find on African textiles to get the feel and look of the colors. Collect images and ideas and bring those you like to class for a great African experience.