

# Fused Art Quilts From Photographs

Supply list and  
Preparation  
Instructions

With Sandra Mollon

**Description:** Learn to adapt a photograph into a realistic art quilt. Workshop participants select an image to work from, get it enlarged, and trace a pattern from which to work.

Another option is use any pattern by Sandra, which may be appropriate for beginning students who do not have an image they want to use. Students learn to cut out the pattern, choose fabric and fusing the fabric into place. Additionally the use of media, and quilting techniques are all covered during the workshop.

## Getting Started:

If you are working from your own photograph, be sure you have selected one to use that you would enjoy making, with clear details (good resolution), and a subject that would be interesting. Unless you have taken a class with me before, and have become very comfortable with the process, I recommend a simple subject. What is a simple subject? One with significantly less details. Look at the rocks above—while the subject matter is wonderful, it doesn't have lots and lots of tiny fabric changes. If you are unsure about your image and want advice please email the photo (at least 3 weeks in advance if possible) to me. I highly recommend that you email me your images if you have never done this process. Please limit the number of images you send to your 2 or 3 favorites. Use the email address below:

[sandra@sandramollonquilts.com](mailto:sandra@sandramollonquilts.com)

NOTE: Please DO NOT choose a full facial portrait for your first collage, or a white-on-white flower or set of buildings. Those subjects are a bit more difficult and require many subtle value changes which are harder to see and often hard to find fabrics for. If you have previously done an in-person workshop with me and are confident, feel free to do whatever subject you are comfortable with.



If you are using someone else's photo, you should get permission from them before you start. I often will get that in writing, as I usually enter my quilts in large shows, which may require a written permission.

Once you have selected your photo, you will need to print out the photo **in color** in whatever size you want the finished quilt to be (Hint: Larger pieces are often easier to work from than smaller pieces which can be tedious to cut.) Many of my quilts are made 48" x 36" in size.

I do most of my poster enlargements at [VistaPrint.com](http://VistaPrint.com). Find the tab for posters, select your size and orientation, and upload your image. I try to buy the cheapest type (semi-gloss) available in full color. If the resolution is poor, they will usually not allow it to be used—so choose another image. Additionally I have used [Blockposters.com](http://Blockposters.com)—the website has step by step instructions to enlarging your picture and printing it out on copy paper in tiles—which are regular paper size. When printed you can trim and tape the individual sheets together in the finished size you selected. More tiles=larger image.

If you choose to have your image printed locally, it is important to ask about paper thickness. Thinner paper has the advantage of being easier to trace through on a light box and also is inexpensive. Please do not try and work from a grayscale enlargement. You can use blueprint paper (it works great!) but in color.

You can also print a good copy of the photograph on photo paper (about 8 x 10" is fine), as a reference photo for color correction to have nearby, in case your enlargement is not color correct or bring an iPad or tablet.

**To use your time wisely in class, I recommend doing the tracing in advance of the workshop.** I have a video link ready to email to all participants at least one month prior to the workshop. This video covers selecting an image, choosing fabrics, and tracing.

Tracing what lines and shapes of the image that you can see is an important step in the process.

If your image is wider than 18" in any direction, you may need to use masking tape to tape a second sheet of freezer paper butted up next to the first. Place your photo on a light box or taped to the window. Carefully trace every shape and value change using a pencil. Bring the enlargement to the workshop along with the traced drawing on freezer paper. If you do not get your tracing completed in advance you may want to bring a light box to use at the workshop.

### **Supplies needed:**

**Misty Fuse fusible web.** I prefer this type because it doesn't seem to build up in your machine, or make your needle gummy, or make the finished quilt rock hard like a piece of cardboard. You will want at least 4-5 yards.

**Freezer Paper:** You will need enough freezer paper to trace your entire image on. If your enlargement is bigger than the 18” wide freezer paper, you will need to tape pieces together—butt up—don’t overlap (use beige masking tape) to make a big enough piece.

**A travel size iron and ironing mat**

**Light box (Unless you complete the tracing in advance)**

**Pencil** with an eraser

**Scissors** for cutting paper and fabric

**A Slice ceramic craft knife** (highly recommended). Do not use an Exacto knife with a metal blade—it can cut your fabric. I usually have some with me to sell, contact me to hold one for you.

**Silicon Goddess Sheets or 1 yard Parchment paper** (Reynolds brand or Costco brand parchment paper work well).

**If you can bring a portable light, do so. Sometimes the room will not have adequate lighting.**

**Fabric:**

You will need a piece of background fabric or a cotton solid or batik (choose a light to medium value color for this that is often seen in the photo) **the size of your enlargement** (or pattern) with a bit left around the work to be trimmed off later—about an inch all around.

**Other fabrics: Be sure to really look at your image, and spend some time finding fabrics which are close in both the color and values you see—batik fabrics and hand dyed fabrics on a batik grade fabric are preferred for this process.**

*Avoid solids, prints of all types, and fabrics that fray easily.* I do not recommend . This requires you to look at your image very carefully. The amounts of each have more to do with your picture, so I cannot give you an exact amount. Have a large variety (something like 30-40 different fabrics, in 1/8 yard to 1/4 yard amounts, which is most likely enough. Make sure your fabric selection is varied in the types of batiks as well as color and value—you will want batiks that have a variety of visual textures.

**Quilting:**

Generally speaking, the vast majority of students do not complete their quilt top in a workshop. Unless you have a very simple image, all quilting is completed later. If you do think you will get to that step, you can bring a sewing machine, thread, batting and backing. Please email me for further information regarding this step if you plan to bring a machine.

**I will bring some media to the workshop for classroom use, but highly recommend you have the following:**

***Color Pencils, Ink, Fabrico Markers*** are all media I regularly use, and recommend good quality color pencils like Prismacolor. Colors in the Fabrico markers will vary according to the image. Colors I use most often are: #152 Sand, #181 Cool Grey, #155 Truffle Brown, and #182 Real Black, and Tsukineko #80 White Ink (bottle) plus a small applicator brush (Fantastix) or small paint brush.