

HEIDI PROFFETTY

Mosaic Quilt Making

New England Quilt Seminars 2024 Fall Session 2

September 29 – October 4, 2024



Explore the beauty of mosaics through Heidi Proffetty's unique style and methods for creating pictorial mosaic quilts. You will learn how to make your own mosaic art quilt design from start to finish. This small, multi-day seminar lets students explore and develop their creativity in a relaxed, no-pressure environment. There will be a concentration on mosaic design in addition to learning how to use the tools, materials and process of making mosaic quilts including PowerPoint Presentations, demonstrations and hands-on exercises. The lessons taught, and guidance given will last you long after this seminar is over. Even though the seminar is multi-day, many students may not get to the quilting stage by the conclusion, therefore bringing a sewing machine is optional. A full handout and sewing machine demonstrations for quilting and finishing will be provided.

Please select at least three photographs from which you would want to create a mosaic design and email them to me at heidi@heidiproffetty.com at least two months before the seminar so that we can discuss which photo would be suitable for this workshop. For additional photo requirements, please refer to the Tips for Choosing a Photo and Supply List.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Meet and Greet. Meet National Quilt Instructor Heidi Proffetty, opening presentation on Mosaic Quilting, Q&A, and in-person viewing of some of her Mosaic Quilts.

Day 2: Mosaic Design. Finding Inspiration and a look at traditional mosaic making, essential mosaic terminologies and principles like Andamento (flow), Opus (style), and Tesserae (shapes) applied to mosaic quilt designs will be covered. Next, using a sample image, we'll practice creating a line drawing, identifying light sources and shadows, then filling it with mosaic shapes. The seminar does not require drawing skills, but there will be a useful demonstration on a method of using color and light to develop a design before making a line drawing. Students can also, using their tablets explore their artistic abilities by using this technique to create their own unique mosaic quilts. The rest of the day will be spent applying everything you've learned to draw a mosaic design based on the image you chose for this project. Time permitting, we'll start to cover adding color to your mosaic design.

Day 3: Color, Fabric Preparation & Cutting. The first half of the day will involve using a color wheel, value chart, viewfinder, phone camera, and other techniques to include color into our design. By learning how to choose a color palette you'll gain the confidence to pick a combination of colors that expresses and fits your photo's subject matter and your mosaic design. After selecting a palette, we'll choose fabrics. Learning how to analyze photos to build a color palette and translate the palette into fabrics takes time, but practicing this skill will make it easier to choose color schemes for future projects. Preparing the fabrics for cutting and learning about selecting a foundation fabric (grout) the color that shows between the mosaic pieces are next. We'll set up the foundation for our project using your line drawing, color and gray scale reference pictures, tulle technique, and supplies. You will begin cutting the fabric pieces and creating your mosaic in the afternoon.

Day 4: Building the Mosaic. This day won't have a lot of material to present. Instead, you'll be peacefully cutting and puzzling pieces together to create your mosaic design.

Day 5: Building the Mosaic. Continue working on the mosaic design. After lunch, there will be a quick but thorough discussion of how to secure the fabric pieces to the foundation materials for safe return home, as well as ongoing demonstrations as students finish their work throughout the day.

Day 6: Mosaic Quilting. In the wrap-up morning session, a short presentation and review of Heidi's quilt finishing handout. Discussion includes layering and binding, top and bobbin threads, machine needle types, free motion feet, sewing machine and area setup. In addition, she will demonstrate her free motion micro stippling technique. Room cleanup, photos of your magnificent mosaic quilt designs and Q&A will conclude this seminar.

Tips for Choosing a Photo for Your Project:



01

Pick a photo that makes you smile, one that motivates you to build a mosaic quilt. Select an interesting subject. Choose a high-resolution photo with clear details and good light and dark contrast. Unusual angles and close-up shots are good suggestions to create added interest.



02

Examples of simple: ladybug, boat, dragonfly, hummingbird, cardinal, fish, music note, fruit, flower, tree, coffee mug, or a portrait photo, cropped to focus on a single facial feature like the eyes.

Detailed faces, figures, or landscapes are not suited for this seminar.



03

To create a unique photo collage, try arranging a single image in different ways, using varying scales and crops. You can also incorporate additional elements like vines, leaves, fruit slices, or flowers shot at different angles and scales. These tips can help you build a visually appealing and distinct mosaic design.



04

Don't worry if you're not a natural photographer. Give it a shot; take a few basic photos using your phone's camera in various lighting.

Consider staging and limiting. Arrange 1–3 related or unrelated items, a dish, napkin, and piece of fruit for a simple but striking photo.

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Additional Photo Requirements:

Please bring (2) grayscale & (1) color enlargement printed on standard paper, your choice of either 14" x 14" (square) or 11" x 14" (portrait or landscape) size and please bring your original color photo for this project. You can have your enlargements printed at a copy center or through online printing service such as Vistaprint.com. Or if you prefer, you can print in tile format using your home printer and tape the pages together. If you intend to use someone else's photograph, you must obtain written permission. You can look for inspirational photographs using online resources that do not have copyright restrictions, such as Pixabay.com, or purchase an image for personal use on istockphoto.com, but please request permission from the photographer.

Student Required Supplies:

- Small sharp fine-tip scissors for detailed precise cutting. (Karen Kay Buckley's Red and Green)
- Precision Fine Tip Tweezers (Available at www.HeidiProffetty.com)
- Seam ripper
- 2 Mechanical Pencils with eraser
- Ultra-Fine Tip Sharpie permanent marker
- Blue painter's tape
- Straight Pins
- Fabric scissors
- Blue painters tape
- Melinda Bula's Color Finder (Etsy)
- Joan Wolfram's Ultimate 3 in 1 Color Tool (Amazon)
- Smart phone
- Tablet & Pencil (optional). If you elect to bring your tablet to practice designing a mosaic, please install Procreate App (\$12.99) prior to class
- Portable tasklight for your table (If desired)
- Notebook, pen/pencil for notetaking
- An ironing mat & mini iron (Clover mini iron)
- Extension cord & Power strip with surge protection
- A can of KK 2000 (3.6 oz) temporary quilt spray
- A pressing cloth or plain muslin
- Small trash bag for fabric/paper scraps
- Something to cover your work at night
- Your glasses if needed

Fabrics:

For the Foundation and Backing: You will need 6 fabrics each cut to 17" x 17". Solid quality cottons (no prints please). 2 black & 2 white pieces. For your other two pieces, I suggest a gray (medium value). Then, study your whole picture and chose one more color that jumps out, like bright pink, red, blue, or yellow.

For the Mosaic Pieces: Mottled Batiks or Hand Dyes work best because they do not fray as much. No prints or solid cottons. Mottled Batiks read like a solid color but actually appear blotchy with subtle variations in the coloration throughout the fabric. There is a full spectrum of colors available through various manufacturers online and at quilt shops. The number of each you'll need to bring depends entirely on your photograph. My recommendation is to select a wide range of colors and values (light, medium, and dark) in 1/4 yard and 1/8 yard quantities. I recommend between 35-40 different fabrics. More is always better! To assist you in making your fabric choices, Examine all of the subtle changes in value for each major color in your photograph. Starting with the darkest value to lightest. Also consider black & white fabrics.

Batting & Binding: If you get to the quilting stage during this seminar, a very thin, dense batting works well and I will supply the batting for this small project. You would also need two 43" x 2.5" strips of any preferred color batik for the binding.

Sewing Machine and the following accessories are optional for this seminar:

- Your sewing machine
- Power cord and foot controller
- Standard Zig Zag Presser Foot and Single Hole Needle Plate (If available)
- Your preferred Free-Motion quilting foot
- Two Bobbins, pre-wound with 80 or 100 weight thread, in a color to match your backing fabric. (Recommended Brands: Wonderfil DecoBob or Superior Threads, MicroQuilter)
- Size 70/10 or 75/11 Microtex Sharp or Non-Stick/Anti Glue Needles
- Rotary Cutter
- Standard 6" x 24" acrylic ruler and cutting mat at least 18" x 24"
- Hand sewing needle and thread to tack binding
- Quilting gloves & Free-Motion quilt slider mat (If desired)

Final Notes:

The nature of mosaics and the smaller size of this design provide us enough time to fully appreciate the mosaic quilt making process, finish the project, and dedicate time focusing on mosaic design itself. You will find that information learned to be of great value in creating your own mosaic art quilts. It is also understandable that some of us will finish the project faster than others; however, the majority of students will be on a normal pace. If you anticipate finishing early, you can either quilt your mosaic using your sewing machine and sewing supplies indicated in the supply list, or you can spend the extra time drawing a new mosaic design. You will have the opportunity to purchase mosaic quilting supplies throughout the seminar.