

# Ann Shaw Quilting

[AnnShawQuilting@gmail.com](mailto:AnnShawQuilting@gmail.com)

[www.AnnShawQuilting.com](http://www.AnnShawQuilting.com)

## **Flowers of the Gorge**

Flowers have been an enduring source of inspiration for quilters; many traditional quilt blocks feature flower patterns. The remarkable array of miniature wild flowers that can be found in the Columbia River Gorge and surround hills of the Cascade Mountains inspired this series of flower designs. Based on a gestural design method and traditional piecing techniques, these patterns take patchwork a step further through the use of unexpected fabric choices. Join us in celebrating the beauty of flowers. A brief discussion introduces the design method. You will then prepare a freezer paper template for your flower pattern and begin the process of selecting fabrics for your design. We will also discuss sewing methods and sewing order to complete your wallhanging.

**Level of Skill: Confidant Beginner to Advanced**

### **Supply List**

**Pattern:** Select one of the flower patterns available for this class. Patterns will be available for purchase prior to class.

#### **Fabrics:**

**In this technique, fabric selections are not decided in advance. A red flower isn't just "red". We will use printed fabrics that have many other bits of accent color to enhance the design. Having lots of choices, especially choices that seem unlikely is very important in this technique.**

You will see that my patterns combine a wide selection of fabrics. The image (such as a chicken, flower or bird) begins by having 60 or more different fabric choices from which to select, and ends up using anywhere from 8-15 different fabrics, mostly in small pieces. Some fabrics will be repeated in the quilt, others may appear only once. The backgrounds also being by having 10 or so different possible fabrics from which to choose and typically feature 3-6 additional fabrics that have a similar look. In some instances we will be looking for specific features in a patterned fabric — for example something that suggests the shape of an eye, or feathers, or fur, or a stem. Patterned fabrics with multiple colors add texture and dimension to the quilt. We will be playing with different combinations to see how these fabrics look next to each other. Having lots of patterned fabric choices from which to choose is part of the creative process for these quilts and helps bring these designs to life. It's the seemingly odd combinations of fabrics that bring texture and depth to your quilts.

**BRING LOTS!! Lots and lots of patterned fabric.** A fat quarter or less is probably as much as you will need of any one fabric. Bring fat quarter sized patterned fabric pieces or larger (scraps no smaller than fat eighth sized. Note: the strips found in jelly rolls are too narrow). I routinely pull 50 or more fabric choices from my stash for the main subject of my quilts and additional fabric choices for the background. Having a wide variety of fabric choices is key to this style. When choosing colors, keep in mind that a red poppy will also have bits of orange and yellow, and perhaps hints of purple and gold and green in it, so look for fabrics that have hints of other colors. **BRING YOUR STASH!!** However, note that we will **NOT BE USING solid or tone-on-tone fabrics that “read” as solids.**

**Large prints, medium prints, small prints, batiks, plaids, stripes, prints with many colors, bold fabrics as well as pastels** — I pull them all. Each different kind of print will add something different to the overall look of the quilt. **Look for printed fabrics where the print clearly contrasts with the background.**

Before class, visit my website and spend some time looking at the range of patterned fabrics used in my quilts to get an idea of what to bring. [www.AnnShawQuilting.com](http://www.AnnShawQuilting.com) Also look at Ruth McDowell’s website to look at the fabrics she uses in her gorgeous quilts. [www.RuthBMcDowell.com](http://www.RuthBMcDowell.com)

**For Freezer Paper Template:**

Freezer paper

Pencils/Eraser/Pencil Sharpener

Ruler (18” plastic is ideal)

Paper Scissors

Blue Masking Tape

Sharpie brand Ultra Fine-line permanent marker (Black only!)

Highlighters (several colors)

Color pencils (7 distinct colors for making tick marks)

(NOTE: Ink pens, Gel pens, Sharpie Markers or Crayons will not work for tic marks)

For large patterns (**Poppy**), you will also need **First Aid Cloth Tape** to tape the freezer paper together (found near BandAids in your drugstore).

**Design Wall:** Bring to class a foam design board. You will need either three 20” x 30” foam boards and 4 binder clips (we’ll tape together the boards to create a larger design board and use the third board to stabilize it) or one 30”x 40” foam board. They are inexpensive and can be found at your local office supply store. You will be pinning your Master Design and template pieces to this as you audition individual fabric selections. Its then easy to carry your project home. **Note: Using a piece of batting or flannel alone will not work – you will need foam board.**

**Sewing Supplies:**

Rotary cutter, 14" or 18" rotary cutting ruler and cutting mat

Pins (LOTS!! Pincushion overflowing with 200+ pins!!

1" ball head pins or longer are ideal)

Fabric scissors

Basic sewing kit

Several Ziploc bags (quart and gallon size)

Paper and Pencil to take notes

**Sewing machine and Supplies:** (bobbins thread, needles etc).

Depending on the pattern you choose, you may or may not reach the point of beginning to sew your design together. Most students will be completing fabric selections and a few may begin sewing by the end of the workshop. If you bring along your sewing machine, leave it in your car initially. You should be comfortable using your machine. **Before coming, check to be sure that it is in good working order**

**Optional Supplies: Digital Camera**

If you have a small digital pocket camera, bring it!

Using the camera on your phone or tablet will also work to take photos to compare and audition fabric selections.