

MJ Kinman's Workshop:

"Bite-Size Gems -- Create a Faceted 18" Block with Freezer Paper Piecing"

DESCRIPTION -- In this fast-paced workshop, participants will create their own singularly beautiful work of faceted light using the same single-foundation piecing techniques I use to create my own "diamond quilts". Participants will choose from one of several pre-selected abstract gem designs based on their skill level. They will then learn how to chart the design onto freezer paper; code each piece for color, location, and adjacency; position template pieces onto fabric to achieve the desired light effects; and ultimately create their own unique study in faceted color. Participants will leave the class with a small top that can later be hand- or machine-quilted at home.

I will incorporate an abbreviated "Treasure Hunting" presentation that shows students how to find the hidden landscapes inside of gem images by using physical and online tools. Using some of the most gorgeous gemstones I've encountered in my work, we'll talk about the principles of abstraction, composition, value contrast, and design. I'll bring all these ideas together in a demonstration of how I use the free online image editing app Photoscape to create new work.

Please list any other expenses: Participants to supply their own fabric for the class. The fabrics best suited to this project are solids or gradients. It's best to limit color choices to two hues, with a few values of each. And be sure to bring white and black fabric to add sparkle to the piece. In short, I encourage students to consider using no more than 5-7 different fabrics in their design.

Supply List:

- 36 inch length of freezer paper (standard 18" width); parchment paper or tracing paper will not work with this technique
- Colored pencils in the colors of the gem they want to create. However, don't limit yourself! You may want to make a gemstone reflecting a wide variety of hues and values.
- Regular pencil
- Ball point pen or Sharpie marker (black)
- Highlighter in any color
- Eraser
- 18" ruler
- Small ruler with a 1/4" measurement
- Bic Wite Out Correction Tape (available at any office supply store; please do not purchase Liquid White Out, which will ruin an iron.)
- Domestic sewing machine and thread assortment (neutrals or colors that match your fabrics)
- Scissors, rotary cutting tools (cutter and mat), pins; we'll be cutting paper with our rotary cutter, so if you want to bring two rotary cutters (one for paper and one for fabric), feel free to do so.
- Suggested, but not required: Acorn Precision Piecing "Seam Align" Glue (1 oz); if the host quilt shop does not carry this or another quality glue, I will bring samples for use if students want to experiment.
- Iron and ironing pad (or board)
- Fabric - The fabrics best suited to this project are solids or gradients. It's best to limit color choices to two hues, with a few values of each. And be sure to bring white and black fabric to add sparkle to the piece. In short, I encourage students to consider using no more than 5-7 different fabrics in their design.