



# Design Notes

Volume 1, Issue 3

September 5, 2008

## Welcome

It was a hectic August this year with helping plan a large show in Seattle at the beginning of the month and then a trip to Nashville, TN to teach at the American Quilters Society Show and Conference. Both events were wonderful, I made so many new friends and saw the most amazing quilts, Wow, it was a feast for the eyes and an inspiration for the artistic soul!

I'm always glad when September comes around, many years ago it always meant a fresh start with new scribbles and sharp pencils. Then it was the changes I would see in my children as year after year (22 years total) they left on that Tuesday after Labor Day and went off to new adventures and experiences.

Now I enjoy a fresh start as I organize my schedule and make teaching plans for the future. I still like to buy scribbles and I've just bought a flashy new planner for the next two years!

Even though summer is finished we can still look forward to the colours changing and the fresh brisk air in the mornings.

## Creative Time Management

I'm not a naturally organized person, its a skill I always have to work at! I find that many books and plans are meant for the office-type worker, not the creative soul! But I have found a few resources to help me along. One of the most useful is by Mark McGuiness and is called **Time Management for Creative People**. It's a downloadable e-book and can be found here: <http://wishful.fileburst.com/creativetime.pdf> I'm sure you will find it very useful, it has certainly helped me to stay more focused and on track with my projects.

## BLOGGING

Do you have a blog? Would you like me to introduce it to others? Let me know and I'll publish some of the addresses in the next newsletter. They are fun to visit and you can meet so many interesting creative people! Visit my BLOG at:

<http://www.susanpm.blogspot.com>

## Creating Design-Leaf It to Me!

I'm looking forward to seeing the changes that nature will provide us with over the next few months as summer turns into fall. Have you considered all the different ways that leaves can be used as design inspiration?

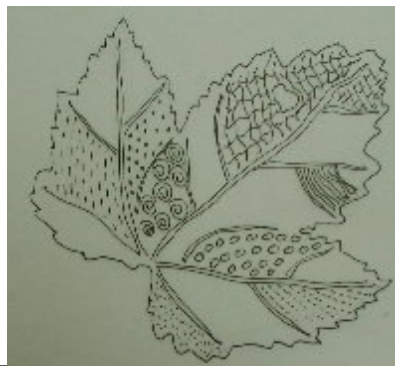
I've put an leaf in my scanner and in one picture I've put black paper behind. Notice how much stronger the colours are with the black paper. The contrast of the colour against the black makes it "pop" and gives it an almost iridescent quality.



Then I've traced the leaf shape and filled in different areas

with a variety of lines for texture. Try this with other shapes than leaves, how about a mug, a piece of clothing, a flower or a face?

Try using coloured markers or pencils to create additional interest. Keep all the copies in your sketchbook. Have a look on the second page for ideas for creating your book.

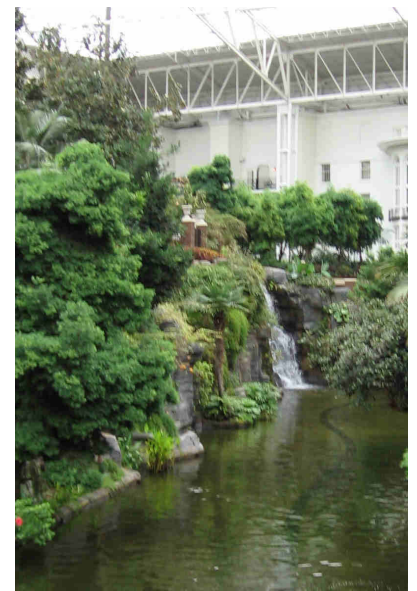


## Creative Books

Are you a book collector? Do you love them almost as much as fabric? I have a large (and growing) collection of design books that I refer to again and again. Some of my favourites are the Dover line of books that are often reprints of long-out-of-date catalogues and resource materials. Check out their listings at: <http://www.doverpublications.com>

**Pictures from the Gaylord Opryland Resort**, all under huge glass ceilings! There were beautiful tropical plants, like I have at home but about 1/6 the size and scrawny!

Many thanks to all the quilters that made my stay in Nashville such a treat!



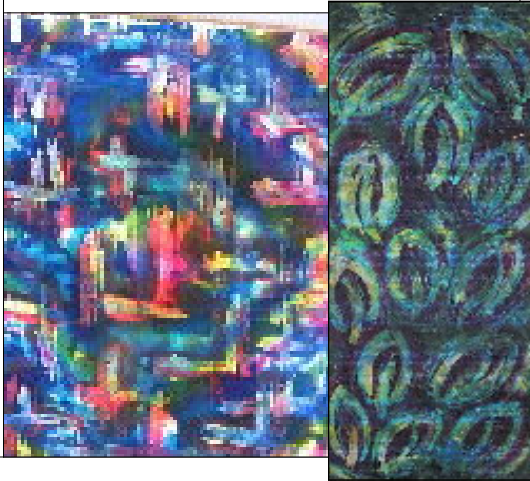
## Soy Wax Batik

Batik is a colouring process where successive layers of colour and wax are applied to produce a desired design. Fabrics can range from simple images to intricate and detailed designs.

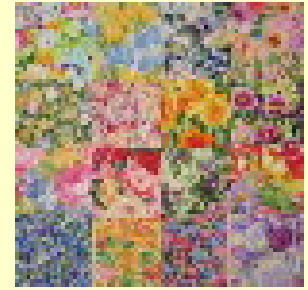
Soy wax has several advantages over the traditional paraffin and beeswax. It melts at a lower temperature, it doesn't smoke or smell and it is much, much easier to remove at the end of your work.

Because the soy wax is softer at room temperature, it is best to work by painting the dye on rather than the immersion method. Also you may not get the good crackling lines that the paraffin/beeswax method is known for.

Soy wax is now my preferred method for batik and I'm teaching it this fall in Victoria. See the class schedule at <http://www.satin-moon.com>



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**“Much like a patchwork quilt, inspiration that stirs and motivates me is made of many things.”**

**Robert Reynolds**

## Give and Take Appliqué

I've been creating design over the past couple of years with a technique that Daphne (my pattern business partner) and I have called **Give and Take Appliqué**.

Consider it playing with the both the positive and negative of shape. If you cut a shape out of a square of fabric you end up with two pieces of fabric, the shape that you cut out and the

piece that's remaining. That's what I've done with the Gingko Leaves above!



I'm teaching this class in Duncan, BC at Studio G-Art on Oct. 29th-30th. Students will

be designing their own motifs by playing with paper, scissors and glue sticks and then interpreting their designs with fabric. It's a great introduction to design in an easy step by step method.

To register call Gloria at 250-748-8731 or email at [gdalyart@shaw.ca](mailto:gdalyart@shaw.ca)

**Come and join the fun!**



I've made several fabric boxes and this one is the latest. I've used clothing labels stitched down onto a contrasting background.

The instructions are on my blog: [www.susanpm.blogspot.com](http://www.susanpm.blogspot.com)

## From My Sketchbook

How many of you keep sketchbooks and use them on a regular basis? Does the thought make you a little nervous?

Do you write notes to yourself as you work through projects, do you scribble little diagrams on bits of paper and then lose them?

Most sketchbooks are just a compilation of ideas and thoughts that you set down

on paper and its not really a scary thing at all!

Start by keeping all your notes and scribbles together in one place and you have the foundation of a sketchbook.

A great book to help you get started is: **Creating Sketchbooks by Kay Greenlees**. Its available through most books stores and on line.



sketchbook (ones with coils that lay flat), some pencils, crayons or coloured pencils, markers, scissors and a glue stick. Next month we'll try some easy exercises.

Here are pictures of two pages from my sketchbook:

Get started with an inexpensive

