



# Design Notes

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## Welcome to Design Notes

Thank you to all who have asked for this newsletter. I am excited to begin and hope that you will enjoy my bits and pieces of inspiration!

If you have visited my website and blog, you'll know that I love to create, learn and be inspired by all things related to fibre.

I grew up in a home that let me play with fabric and threads from very early on. I had my first "real" sewing machine by the time I was seven or eight. I'm sure I didn't make anything truly wonderful but it inspired me to learn and play....and that what I'm still doing even now!

So much of our lives is spent doing the stuff we have to do, the cooking, the cleaning, the laundry and on and on... that we forget to find the creative spark that moves within us. We also forget to find and nurture that part of us that just wants to play....

I've been working through some of "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron and for the first few days I found the morning pages a real struggle.

I couldn't think of much to write about and I think most of it was pretty awful drek!

But now I'm looking forward to writing each day as a way to centre myself and my thoughts. It helps me to focus on being more positive about my work.

I'm sure there will be ups and downs along the way but I plan to keep on working through it. Is anyone else using Julia's book? I also have her "The Sound of Paper" book that I'm setting aside til later.

Do you have any favourite books that inspire you? Let me know and I'd love to share them with others.

### Creative Visit

<http://www.textilemuseum.ca/>

If you are in Toronto don't miss going to see it at any time, but they do have online exhibits that no one should miss!

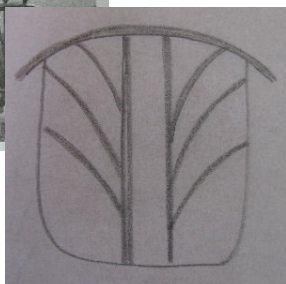
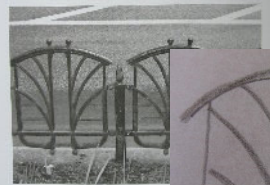


The picture above was taken when I visited Chicago in April and went on a Design Tour. This is a very simple design which reminded me of a few of the Stained Glass designs I have done for quilt patterns. I've printed it out and done some alternate sketches of it which you can see below left.

If you are not sure where to start on **your** Design Journey, begin with something simple. Look at designs around your house, a piece of china, the pattern on a chair or table. Trace it out and repeat the image two or three times and see where it might lead you. There are no rules and you don't have to share with anyone until **you** feel ready.

## Creative Design

Make a couple of copies of the photo you have taken or do a rough sketch.



Carve a stamp from Speedy-Cut with lino cutting tools.

Use paint or stamp pads to create layers of colour and play with different ways to arrange the images. Try different colours or multiple colours, turn or rotate the stamp for different effects.



### Creative Cyberspace

Visit <http://www.robertgenn.com> see his uniquely Canadian art and sign up for an inspiring newsletter.