The 1718 Coverlet Revisted – day workshop

While the 1718 coverlet has a wonderful selection of blocks, the modern quilter may prefer slightly quicker methods to make them! In this workshop, we will look at recreating a selection of geometric and pictorial blocks from the coverlet using modern patchwork and applique techniques, including rotary cutting with templates; working with stripes; machine piecing mitres, inset pieces, triangles and bias edges; applique techniques including needleturn and freezer paper (by hand) and bonded applique (by machine); plus ideas for finishing your piece. There will also be a look at the original mosaic patchwork technique, using samples made for the book. You’ll be able to make a start on your very own 1718 project, whether you’re going for the full coverlet or a smaller piece.

Materials and equipment you need to bring –

* Fabrics for patchwork and appliqué – cotton please rather than silk, which frays too much for easy machine piecing. Use the original coverlet for colour inspiration or select your own colourscheme. See the fabrics section in the book for inspiration.
* Cotton machine sewing thread to tone with fabrics.
* Hand appliqué thread to tone with fabrics for appliqué (not the background fabrics). Silk or cotton is fine, or you can use your machine sewing cotton (size 50 or thinner), waxed with ‘Thread Heaven’ silicone block or similar.
* Sewing machine – make sure it works and you know how to use it!!! It may be a good idea to bring the machine manual too, if you are unfamiliar with anything. Bring your quarter inch foot or adjust your machine needle to sew a quarter inch seam. Bring the standard zigzag foot and an applique foot (if you have one). Rotary cutting equipment – a medium cutting mat (A2 size may be the most useful - minimum cutting area 22 x 16 in), rotary cutter (make sure the blade is sharp and free from nicks – a dull or nicked blade won’t cut properly and will ruin your mat too!) and quilters’ ruler. Please clean your mat before the workshop – lint and threads embedded in the mat can be removed by lightly rubbing with a nylon net bath body scrub.
* Marking pens & pencils that will show up on your fabrics, for your applique.
* Basic sewing kit, including fabric scissors, sharps *or* appliqué needles, fabric marker (or pencil), pins etc.

There will be printed out patterns for the blocks we plan to use in the workshop, for you to use and take home. Please bring your copy of ‘The 1718 Coverlet’ if you want to try a particular block and we’ll see what we can do!

Please contact me via my website if you have any queries about the requirements list.

Susan Briscoe

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