

Helene Knott - Lectures & Programs

I offer lectures and programs on a variety of topics, following is a list of the most popular ones I have in my repertoire. I also have given presentations by 'special request' on topics that fall within my realm of knowledge; some of these have been included in the list below.

The Art and Craft of Quilting: This lecture focuses on the quilting – both hand and machine – that is the final stage of a quilt. Proper tools, materials and design resources are covered in a digital presentation followed by a trunk show of some of my work where the quilted stitchery is of particular emphasis.

Art Journal Quilts: These random acts of beauty are explorations into the artistic side of quilting and fiber art delving into techniques like stenciling, printing, beading, embroidery, along with design challenges. The trunk show covers a wide variety of projects created to experiment with the less traditional methods of quilt-making.

Confessions of a Self-Taught Quilter: We all have to start somewhere and my early years of quilting were humble indeed. In the beginning, I stumbled through learning to quilt by trial and error with an emphasis on error. This humorous trunk show features some of my earliest quilts and my evolution from an inept albeit enthusiastic 'stitcher' to a nimble fingered artisan. Due to the bulk and weight of the trunk show quilts, this presentation is limited to venues within driving distance though a digital presentation could be arranged for.

Color Talk: This program covers Color Theory and basic concepts such as value, saturation proportional color and how they can contribute to a quilt you absolutely love or make for a major disappointment. Methods of selecting color schemes from a color wheel along with a few other novel approaches round out the presentation as does a trunk show of quilts illustrating color formulas in action. Note: I have a version of this presentation geared toward knitters too.

Emancipated Quilting – Drafting Basics and Beyond: Few quilters know how to draft a quilt pattern. Many may lack the confidence in the math involved. Drafting your own patterns is not as complex as you might think, especially for geometric patterns, and drafting a pattern can be liberating when it comes to modifying a block size or design. This presentation will cover some of the basics of quilt drafting and provide useful steps to make recreating or redesigning a vintage quilt design or traditional block easier, including tips for streamlining construction.

Exploring Landscapes Through Fabrics: This presentation covers the process of creating effective landscape quilts. The digital portion of the program presents images of landscapes with interesting natural features and examples of how those effects can be achieved in fabric. The lecture includes a trunk show of a variety of my landscape quilts.

Gilding The Lilly – Embellishment for Beginners and Pros: This presentation and trunk show will explore a variety of embellishment applications from modest to ornate, to add a visual or textural pizzazz to quilts. Techniques such as hand and machine embroidery, beading, stamping/painting, confetti, and the materials needed, will be outlined; the presentation includes a trunk show of various embellished quilts and projects.

Global Dances: A good portion of my work is influenced by the art and myth of other cultures. Some are inspired by ethnic designs and the stories behind them, while others incorporate traditional ethnic techniques. This is a trunk show and lecture of my works that were created from my deep love and respect for the arts and folklore of far-reaching places and civilizations.

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A Passionate Fabric Lover's Guide to Asian Fabrics: We all love fabrics but Asian fabrics are a particular favorite of mine. Shibori, Katazome, Kasuri, Sakiyori and imported quilters cottons and silks... I love them all. This presentation will provide an overview on various fabric production methods and includes a smorgasbord of fabrics to touch and fondle. A trunk show of Asian inspired quilts can be included upon request.

Quilting! – Art or Craft?: This program examines the ongoing debate about whether quilting is an art or a craft with some insightful observations about how and why this debate originated. This thoughtful presentation will empower even the novice utilitarian quilter to look at their work (and the work of others) with a new eye and appreciation to the creativity that is involved in all quilts from the basic scrappy quilt to pictorial masterpieces, includes a trunk show.

Slow Stitch – Sashiko, Kantha, and Beyond: An interest in Slow Stitch has swept across the quilting community reawakening a trend to this sometimes elegant, and sometimes primitive form to needlework. From humble Boro, elegant Sashiko, and exquisitely intricate Kantha, to contemporary embellishment, this presentation explores them all and how they are connected with a common thread.

Transcending the Vision: Ideas are like visions, but a beautiful quilt needs a construction plan as well as an inspiration. After the inspiration comes the task of creating working drawings, selecting appropriate techniques and materials and then making the actual quilt. This process is the topic of this presentation that includes a step by step journey through the making of my award winning quilt – The Captain's Wife.