

Queer Quilting Bee

June 19 – Juneteenth - planning day

June 20 + 21 for a 2-day community queer quilting bee, pay-what-you-can, in partnership with LGBTQ+ teaching artists who are already part of the Textile Center community.

15 students max

Description: Can we look to piecework, a universal craft language, as a cognitive framework for understanding the complex ways that identities are created and shared? What are the scraps of connection that make us who we are? This workshop investigates piecework and quilting as means of expression and conceptual platform for 2SLGBTQIA+ expression. Starting with a scrap exchange of meaningful cloth, we will work with collective material as we learn the basic structure of a traditional quilt, including patchwork, appliqué, layering and quilt stitching techniques.

Materials for students to bring:

Supplies:

- 1-3 yds of fabric scraps (cotton, wool, heavy silks, synthetics, etc) for sampling and exchanging *see scrap exchange note below
- 1-2 yds - fabric (preferably cotton) that holds some meaning for you *or can be used as a substitute for meaningful/memorable/symbolic cloth in your life, see note below
- 1-2 yds – solid color fabric (such as cotton broadcloth) or muslin
- 1 yd - Cotton batting
- 3-6 spools - Sewing machine thread- various colors; (preferred brand: Guterman)

Tools:

- sewing machine *contact me if you don't have one to bring—we have to let the Textile Center know how many are needed
- 8" scissors (dressmaker shears size)
- 4 1/2" embroidery scissors
- rotary cutter 45mm or 28mm size (Fiskar, Olfa, Clover brands)
- replacement rotary cutter blades
- self-healing cutting mat (24"x36"= best size; smaller ones will work)
- clear-view ruler (preferably 3"-4" W x 36" L)
- measuring tape – 60"
- Sewing needles; pkg of various sizes
- Sewing machine needles – universal and/or quilting
- 1 box Yellow-head quilting pins; (Dritz Quilting Quilter's Pins 1-3/4"- 175/pkg)
- 1 box - fine dressmaker pins, glass-head fine pins, or silk pins
- 1 chalk pencils (white, yellow, blue) or Clover Brand pattern marker liquid chalk pen
- 1 disappearing ink pen – blue or purple

Fabrics

On the material list you will notice I gave a suggestion for amount of fabric to bring with you. I encourage to bring as much as you are able! We are especially looking for fabric that can communicate meaning...fabric that tells a story in and of itself. Working in a formal, aesthetic mode is absolutely fine for this workshop, too—I just want us all to “dig a little deeper” into why we are drawn to piecework/quilts, and I think materiality is powerful.

Scrap Exchange

We will also be swapping fabrics in the grand quilt tradition of scrap exchanges. We will exchange these to use for making patchwork and appliqué sample blocks. This becomes a simple, material way that we will all be connected after the workshop! Please bring 18 pieces of roughly the same size fabrics (between 4”x4” to 12”x12”) (important/symbolic or otherwise) to trade for this activity.