

LANDSCAPES

PATTERNS:

KEEP SIMPLE-USE A PHOTO OR PICTURE AND ELIMINATE INTRICATE DESIGNS. YOU CAN ALWAYS ADD SOMETHING LATER TO ADD MORE INTEREST. IF THE DESIGN IS TOO INTRICATE YOU WILL LOOSE INTEREST OR THE LANDSCAPE WILL BECOME A MUDDLE.

WAYS TO GET PATTERNS TO USE:

LOOK AT GARDENING BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHY BOOKS OR PHOTOS YOU HAVE TAKEN OR ANY OTHER SOURCE OF DESIGNS. IF YOU ARE USING SOMETHING OF ANOTHER ARTIST BE SURE TO GET PERMISSION. ALWAYS BE AWARE OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT. IF USING A PHOTO OR PICTURE IT HELPS TO PUT A FRAME OVER AND MOVE AROUND TO SEE THE MOST INTERESTING PARTS OF THE PICTURE. LOOK FOR A DESIGN THAT IS INTERSTING FROM DIFFERENT DISTANCES. DESIGN SHOULD PULL YOU INTO WORK AND TAKE YOU TO DIFFERENT PLACES WITHIN.

TRANFERRING PATTERNS:

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, TRACING PAPER, TAKE TO COPY PLACE AND HAVE THEM ENLARGE OR DIVIDE PHOTO AND ENLARGE ON HOME COPIER. IF YOU CAN SKETCH YOU CAN SKETCH ONTO BACKGROUND WITH CHALK PENCIL OR OTHER REMOVABLE METHOD.

FOCAL POINT:

CONSIDER WHAT YOU WANT TO BE YOUR FOCAL POINT. TO OBTAIN THE PLACEMENT OF FOCAL POINT -DIVIDE BACKGROUND INTO THIRDS-TIC-TAC-TOE GRID. FOCAL POINT SHOULD BE OFF CENTER- PREFERABLY AT ONE OF THE INTERSECTIONS. BEGIN TO CONSIDER NEGATIVE SPACES.

FABRICS:

MOST FUN OF ALL IS YOU GET TO SHOP AND SHOP A LOT. LOOK FOR FABRICS THAT ARE REALISTIC. ALSO LEARN TO LOOK FOR FABRICS THAT YOU CAN CUT LEAVES ETC OUT OF SUCH AS A GREEN WITH DIFFERENT VALUES IN THE PIECE. DO NOT LOCK YOURSELF IN WITH PRECONCEIVED IDEAS OF WHAT A TREE MUST LOOK LIKE. TALK ABOUT TREE IN POPPY PIECE. IF THE LEAF IN A FABRIC IS TOO LARGE YOU CAN CUT IT DOWN. RO YOU MAY NOT EVEN USE IT AS A LEAF. THINK OF VALUE AND COLOR AS YOU SEARCH. DO NOT WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE COLOR IF YOU LIKE THE DESIGN. WE CAN ALWAYS CHANE THAT. WHO KNOWS-THE LEAF MIGHT BECOME PART OF A MOUNTAIN OR A FISH OR WHO KNOWS. LOOK FOR FABRICS THAT CAN BE USED AS WOOD, ROCKS, FENCES, FRUIT, FLOWERS, ETC.

SOLIDS DO NOT WORK. THEY ARE FLAT AND GIVE NO SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE . ALSO CALICOES, FABRICS WITH A LOT OG GOLD OR SILVER ETCHING IN THEM. GOOD FABRICS ARE BATIKS. THEY HAVE A LOT OF TEXTURE THAT MOVES THE EYE. THERE ARE SOME LANDSCAPE FABRICS AVAILABLE NOW. JUST BE CAREFUL AND DO NOT DEPEND ON THEM TOTALLY OR ALL FABRICS FROM ONE DESIGNER.

PREPARING FABRIC;

STARCH FABRIC MAKING VERY STIFF. IT IS BETTER TO USE A LIQUID STARCH. I HAVE FOUND IT AT PUBLIX STORES. USE HALF WATER AND HALF STARCH. YOU REALLY WANT THE FABRIC TO FEEL LIKE CARDSTOCK ALMOST. MAKES IT EASIER TO CUT MOTIFS. CUT EACH MOTIF DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE NO 2 ELEMENTS IN NATURE ARE THE SAME/WHEN CUTTING MOVE THE FABRIC NOT THE SCISSORS. MANICURE SCISSORS WORK WELL FOR SMALL PIECES. TRY NOT TO BE TOO PERFECT.

BACKGROUNDS:

BATIKS WORK VERY WELL. ALSO HAND DYED OR PAINTED AND THERE ARE SOME FABRICS ON THE MARKET ESPECIALL FOR BACKGROUNDS. ALSO PIECING THE BACKGOUND ADD TO INTERES AND YOU CAN GET THE VALUES YOU NEED IN CERTAIN AREAS. CURVED PIECEING THE EASY WAY WORKS GREAT FOR THIS. YOU CAN ALSO USE A TRADITIONAL BLOCK, OR CRAZY PIECING. JUST KEEP IN MIND THE VALUES AND KEEP IT SUBTLE.

CREATING THE DESIGN:

TO CREATE VISUAL INTEREST LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW. NOTICE HOW VALUES CHANGE WITH DISTANCE , THAT NOT EVERYTHING IS PERFECT, SUN MAY BE ON ONE TREE AND NOT ON OTHERS, MOUNTAINS IN BACKGROUND ARE FUZZY. JUST DO NOT DO YOUR LOOKING WHILE YOU ARE DRIVING! PERSPECTIVE IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. THIS IS WHERE VALUE REALLY COMES INTO PLAY. THINGS THAT ARE FARTHERES AWAY SUCH AS MOUNTAINS ARE IN A LIGHTER VALUE. ONE IDEA TO ACHIEVE THIS IS TO USE THE BACK OF SOME FABRICS YOU ARE USING FOR THE MOUNTAINS THAT ARE IN FRONT. OF COURSE THIS WILL NOT WORK WITH BATIKS. REMEMBER WE CAN ALWAYS COVER WITH TULLE, CHIFFON, COLOR ETC TO GET THE VALUE WE NEED. ALSO CAN THREAD PAINT. TREES USUALL HAVE LIMBS THAT ARE NOT STRAIGHT, SOME ARE BENT. FLOWERS ARE RARELY EXACTLY ALIKE- IN SHAPE OR VALUE. SOME ARE OLDER BLOOMS, SOME ARE BUDS. GROUP THINGS TOGETHER. WHEN USING FLOWERS MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE MORE FOLIAGE THAN FLOWERS ARE YOU WILL DEVELOP WALLPAPER.

GETTING TO THE PLAY PART:

PLACE DESIGN CANVAS AND INSPIRATION ON DESIGN WALL. IF BACKGROUND IS TOO STRONG AT THIS POINT COVER WITH TULLE, CHIFFON. PIN ELEMENTS IN PLACE. DO THE BACKGROUND [PIECES FIRST. AND WORK YOUR WAY TO THE FRONT IN LOGICAL ORDER. IF YOU ARE USING WATER THE WATER HORIZON LINE NEEDS TO BE STRAIGHT. REMEMBER BUSHES AND TREES DO NOT APPEAR IN A STRAIGHT LINE-AVOID BLUNT EDGES-CUT FREE FORM FOREGROUND ELEMENTS APPEAR LARGER AND ARE USUALLY IN WARMER COLORS. YOU CAN PLACE DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS IN THE FOREGROUND. REMEMBER YOU CAN CUT AWAY COVER UP, WHATEVER. LEAVE ON DESIGN WALL, PHOTOGRAPH, USE REDUCING GLASS AND LOOK AT FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE DECIDING YOU HAVE FINISHED. YOU ARE NOW READY TO SEW DOWN THE ELEMENTS WITH INVISIBLE THREAD. THIS WILL BE RAW EDGE WORK. AFTER SECURING EVERYTHING AUDITION BORDERS AND DECIDE ON QUILTING. QUILTING SHOULD BE VERY SIMPLE AND USUALLY DONE WITH INVISIBLE THREAD. AFTER ALL THE SCENE IS YOUR BRAGGING PART.

THINGS TO ADD;

I DO NOT DRAW AT ALL. I HAVE TROUBLE WITH BUILDINGS ETC SO I FIND A BUILDING PHOTO I LIKE AND TRACE THE EDGES. THEN IT IS EASY TO FILL IN THE REST OF THE BUILDING.

PRISCILLA E. HAIR PEHQUILT@CHARTER.NET