



April Sproule

2019 - 2020

SPROULE STUDIOS



paint and stitch
WORKSHOPS

www.sproulestudios.com

Paint and Stitch Workshops

Even though I have been a textile artist for many years, it seems that the longer I am involved in this field, the more joy and enthusiasm I bring to my work and my teaching.

Encouraging each student to value their intuition and develop their own personal artistic style remain at the forefront of my particular style of teaching. I urge students to take calculated risks and follow their hearts on a wondrous, rewarding, and creative adventure.

While some of my workshops are technique based, others are structured around a particular project that will help students develop various skills. The workshops range in skill level from beginning to intermediate, and color and design are an integral part of every workshop that I teach. My goal is to provide my students with the knowledge and skills to help their creative visions become a reality.

Contact: april@sproulestudios.com

358 Main Street, Fortuna, CA 95540

Phone: (707) 725-9124

Workshop 1:



Fabric Painting with Stencils

Fabric Painting with Stencils



Levels: All **Duration: 1-2 Days**

Stenciling is an incredibly easy and versatile way to add beautiful imagery to fabric. We cover the basic stenciling techniques and quickly move on to the more advanced shading and composition variations using my Textile Design Stencils. Students will gain:

- color selection and mixing confidence
- composition expertise
- foolproof painting skills

No painting or drawing experience is required, and students will be able to create stunning work that can later be framed or quilted. Optional instructions for a wallhanging will be provided, and all supplies except fabric are included.

This workshop can be extended to a second day with machine quilting of the project added.

Levels: All **Duration: 1-2 Days**

For the Mandala Project, I have changed things up a bit. Instead of simply painting samples, we will experiment with different ways to put all the shapes and objects of the stencils together in numerous combinations. This way, you can choose your favorite things to add to your piece to make it an original composition that will probably look very different than everyone else's.

All the basics of stenciling techniques will be covered, and then we will focus on design options.

Come and join us for a fun-filled day of color, design, and the exploration of new ideas.

Painted Textile Mandala



Workshop 2:

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Contemporary Hand Embroidery

Levels: All

Duration: 1-2 Days

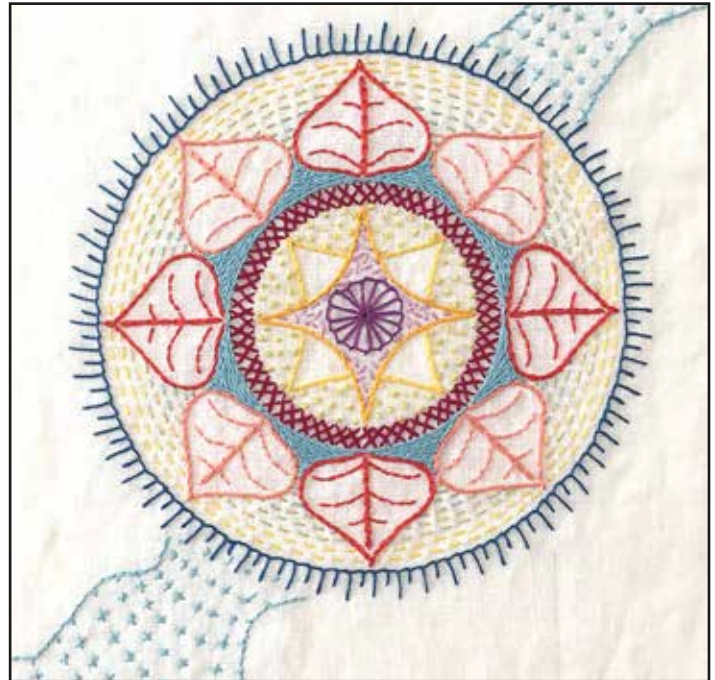
Hand Stitched Mandala

Many of us learned to embroider from our grandmothers, as did I. But these days we have many inexpensive tools and resources available that make the process even more simple and enjoyable. We will cover:

- fabric selection
- tools and supplies
- design and color choices
- how to mount and frame your work

Students will stitch one of my mandala designs on a 16" square of beautiful linen. Hand embroidery is perfect for projects such as quilt squares, pillow tops, clothing, and other fiber art mixed media type projects.

I make this class fun, easy, and inspirational.



Japanese Boro Stitching



Levels: All

Duration: 1-2 Days

Boro Stitching is a type of hand stitching that originated in Japan as a way to mend or patch together clothing or other cloth items.

We will cover the basics of layout and materials to be used, and spend our time happily stitching away. This type of stitching lends itself perfectly to bags, clothing, home decor, and many other types of items.

The Slow Stitching movement has really taken hold, and it is one of the most enjoyable and relaxing past times I have explored.

Instructions for making an optional Market Tote will be provided and a variety of hand printed motifs and fabrics will also be available.

Workshop 3:

Fiber Art Collage



Stitching a Story



Levels: All **Duration: 1-2 Days**

This is the perfect opportunity to explore numerous techniques for making a small fiber collage piece that tells a story of a favorite memory, person, or event.

We will be fusing, gluing, free motion stitching, embroidering, or whatever it takes to bring your story to life. This is the everything and the kitchen sink class for you to have fun and play.

These pieces make great gifts, and it is such a lovely way to build a narrative around one small item. The image on the left has my grandmother, hand stitched, and her actual embroidery scissors.

In a **two day class**, time allows for building a strip pieced background for your work.

In either class, techniques covered will be:

- developing your story around an object or idea
- composition
- color
- basic hand embroidery skills and stitches
- free-motion stitching
- stamping
- creating a small piece appx. 10" x 12"
- ways to create with trims and lace

Participants can bring any type of memento such as a photo, a ticket, a piece of jewelry, buttons, sheet music, etc.



Workshop 4:

Block Printing on Fabric

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Introduction to Block Printing

In this introductory class, students learn all the basics of block printing on fabric using permanent water-based printing inks.

- tools and supplies
- design selection and transfer
- how to carve your own stamp
- printing techniques

You are welcome to print fabric for whatever you like, but there are also instructions included for a great market tote bag.



Block printing works great on many types of fabric including cotton, silk, linen, hemp, or wool.

Sometimes it is really useful to have extra strips of fabric cut to print like the ones above. They can be used in all kinds of projects.

Block Printing, Extended

For the extended two or three day class, there will be ample time to delve deeper into design possibilities with tiled designs and repeat prints.

Seamless repeats for repeat designs will also be demonstrated. It is amazing how fun, rewarding, and immediate the process of block printing is.



Workshop 5:

Free Motion Machine Quilting



Creative Machine Quilting

This workshop covers everything you need to get started: materials, equipment, threads, batting, marking, etc.

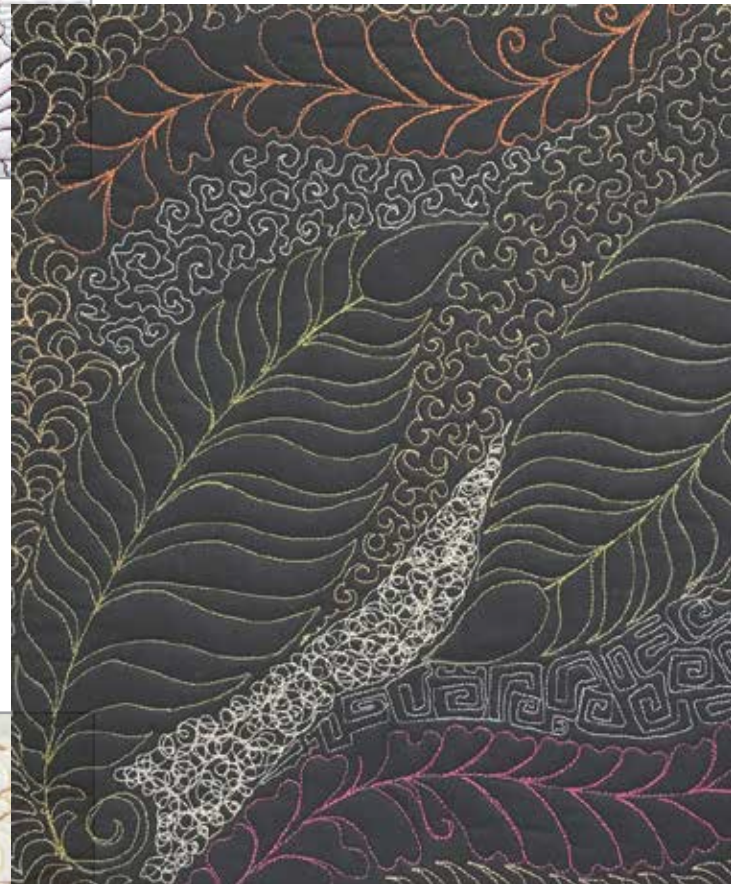
The first part of the day is spent practicing, and then we do a version of the sampler to the left.

Illustrative Free Motion

Levels: Intermediate **Duration: 1 Day**

Shown below is a closeup of one of the pieces we will stitch. Students have a choice of a bee or sunflower. This workshop is more for those who know the basics and are ready to expand.

This class is a tremendous skill and confidence builder. It is a sure way to boost your machine quilting skills immediately.



Feathers, Ferns, And Furls

Levels: Intermediate **Duration: 1 Day**

Learn to effortlessly draw beautiful curves and shapes to guide your stitching. Multiple techniques for stitching the above will be shared.

I make it look really easy because it is! I will share all the tips and tricks I have learned over the last many years.

Educational Background

I received my professional training from San Francisco School of Fashion Design where I studied Fashion Illustration, Costume History, Flat Pattern Drafting and Grading, French Draping, and both Couture and Production Sewing Techniques. In recent years I have also had the good fortune to study in the field of surface design with many of the best textile artists in the world. I have continued to supplement my education with art classes, digital video production, photography, English classes, computer classes, and large number of business classes

Employment History

For 20 years I was employed by many different businesses in the United States and Canada who manufactured a vast array of items ranging from lingerie to leather goods. My area of expertise was in production management and new product development. I have been self-employed for the past twenty years at Sproule Studios where I offer longarm quilting, surface design and quilting workshops, and consultation services to my clientele.

Teaching Experience

I have been teaching workshops on numerous topics in the textile arts field for the past twenty years for quilt guilds, here at my textile arts studio for the past ten years, and more recently College of the Redwoods Community Education Program.

Exhibitions and Awards: Please view my website if you are interested in this facet of my artistic career as they are too numerous to list here.

Publications

In 2011, I began writing articles on surface design and quilting for various publications.

1. Sproule, April (2011). The Anatomy of a Wholecloth. Machine Quilting Unlimited, November/ December 2011. Pages 52-57.
2. Sproule, April (2011). From Technician to Artist. Machine Quilting Unlimited, January/February 2012. Pages 56-60.
3. Sproule, April (2012). Amazing Arashi Shibori. Quilting Arts Magazine, April/May 2012. Pages 16-20.
4. Sproule, April (2012). The Great Dye Experiment: Silk vs. Cotton. Surface Explorations, April/ May 2012. Online publication. 2019

Presentation and Workshop Fees

2020 Rates Listed

Workshops: \$650.00 per day for up to 20 students, and then an additional \$40.00 per person.

Lectures, Includes Trunk Show: \$450.00, 1 hour long. **Transformation from Technician to Artist**

I discuss how my artistic style has evolved over the past twenty years along with a trunk show featuring many of my favorite quilts to illustrate my progress.

Sources of Inspiration

Becoming aware of your surroundings and all the other design influences and resources around us can be incredibly helpful.

The Myth of Creative Genius

Many people think talented artists are just born that way. I aim to dispel that myth and help people see that they can accomplish whatever they set out to do creatively.

Additional Fees: All lodging, transportation, and a per diem fee for meals will be reimbursable to me.

Note: Please visit my website for additional images of workshop samples.