

From Scraps to Treasures

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Gather up all those little bits and treasures that you have been saving for the perfect project. With a little imagination and a lot of whimsy, you can create an art quilt as unique as you, showcasing all the things you love. This is a perfect place to explore a favorite collection, Aunt Mary's doilies, repurposed fabric, upholstery scraps - even paper! Bring your treasures and embrace the play!

Supply List:

The supplies for this project are only as limited as one's imagination. I have listed my suggestions below, to spark some ideas, but I hope you spend time looking through your special treasures in order to make this a meaningful piece for you to create.

You may want to add an image to your project, such as an animal, house, tree, coffee cup - whatever you think will fit your story. I would suggest you spend time looking at simple clip art samples or in google images. If you print out a sample, try to enlarge it to a workable size for your project. I can help you tweak the size to make a bit larger or smaller.

You are working small, so you don't need large amounts of anything. My samples are 12"x 12". You may work in whatever size you prefer.

I have a tried and true "recipe" that I use to collect supplies for this project. You are welcome to follow it or venture off on your own ideas. I suggest you read through the list, and begin with your favorite treasure, then build your fabric selection from that.

1. A small selection of a favorite fabric collection: Liberty, William Morris, Civil War Repros, anything with a multi-colored, small or busy print works especially well. Batiks, solids and other prints may work also, just be sure that there is enough contrast in your selection. You are working in small amounts, so there needs to be a definition (contrast) if you layer multiple fabrics.
2. Bits of texture: Wool, upholstery fabric, textured linen, velvet, or textured wovens (which are especially nice to use for "fraying" the edges).
3. Background fabric: I like to choose something that counterbalances the fabrics chosen in #1. For example - simple vs. busy, graphic typography vs. traditional calico, light vs. dark, shiny vs. textured, Japanese woven vs. batik. Opposites attract in this project!
4. Repurposed, vintage or favorite treasures: The sky's the limit on this. Lace doilies, vintage quilt blocks, Grandma's beads, ribbons, charms, tassels, antique photos, or even a special greeting card can be worked in.
5. Batting (to fit your project size): We will be adding the batting before doing any hand stitching. The backing can be added when finished. I prefer soft, natural battings, as they are nicer to stitch through.

Small fabric scissors (or small rotary cutter and mat)

Paper scissors

Glue stick (any brand will do)

Needle for hand stitching (Clover gold eye embroidery or Bohin self-threading are my favorites). A few strands and colors of embroidery floss, perle cotton or sashiko thread

Optional:

Needle threader

*Sewing Machine

*Project may be finished completely by hand, with a mix of hand and machine stitching, or finished at home with a sewing machine.