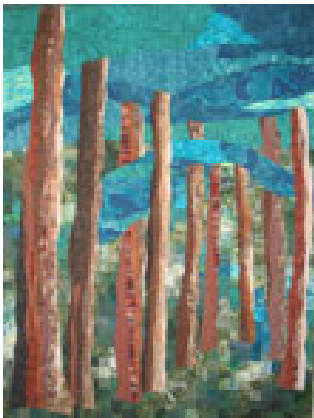


April 1, 2009

Daphne's Diary

Inspirations

Last month I spoke about how the colours of my spring flowers inspired me to make a small quilt. What inspires you when you want to begin a new quilting project? Is it a particular fabric that you just can't leave at the quilt store? Is it a block design that you have always wanted to try? What about a technique or skill that you want to develop? Or is it all of these?



The seed of inspiration for my Emily's Forest quilt began with a fabric that reminded me of Emily Carr's paintings.

I have used block designs for many of the quilts for my books *Fat Quarter Frenzy* and *Fat Quarter Frenzy 2*. You can see projects from the book in the Galleries on my website: www.daphnegreig.com

My most recent quilt uses both the 'ripless paper piecing' technique and pieced uneven curves. This was a fun challenge to develop my piecing skills.



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Sometimes I am inspired by what is happening around me. We have had so much rain and cool weather—they say that is what April is for: '*April showers Bring May flowers*'. So this month's mini-project is umbrellas. Bright, fun umbrellas! The technique is fusing and I used some great new decorative blades for my rotary cutter to add some personality to my umbrellas. There are a couple of books showing these techniques:

- ***Fun, Fast Fusies*** is by ***Frieda Anderson***. I met Frieda for the first time at the *Gulf States Quilting Seminar* in Baton Rouge. She hand dyes her fabrics and makes some spectacular quilts. Check out her website for more info: www.friestyle.com
- ***Laura Wasilowski*** also uses the fusing technique in her books ***Fusing Fun*** and ***Fuse-and-Tell Journal Quilts*** (just released). See Laura's website www.artfabric.com for lots of inspiring ideas and her books, patterns, DVDs and hand-dyed fabrics and threads.

I would love to hear about what inspires you—email me at agreig@islandnet.com

If you know someone who would also like to receive my newsletter, please ask them to email me and I'll add them to my mailing list.

Check my BLOG for up-to-date info:

www.daphnegreig.blogspot.com

Things TO DO in April

Consider the Lilies VII

presented by Fibres & Beyond

Fibre Art Show & Sale, old St Mary's, Methosin

April 18-26 (10-4, Sunday 12-4)

International Quilt Festival/Chicago

April 17-19, Rosemont, Illinois

www.quilts.com Click on 'Shows' link

Along with the quilt show there are great classes!

Check out my April Classes!

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Baton Rouge in March and meeting so many quilting friends at the Victoria Sewing Show and the Westshore Quilt Show. It's so nice to have this great circle of friends who 'talk the same language of quilts'!

This is where I will be in April:

At Calico Cupboard:

April 7: Art Play—Embellishing with Beads & Crystals—Add some 'bling' to your projects—there are still 3 spaces. If you saw my West Coast stained glass quilt at my Trunk Show, come and see how I made it **sparkle!**

April 11: Beginner Paper Piecing—perfect piecing every time!

April 16: Stippling & Beyond—learn all about free-motion machine stitching and get those quilt tops quilted

April 17: Aztec Beauty—my **NEW Give & Take Applique™** pattern—this class is FULL but I will be teaching it at Satin Moon in the summer. Watch for a new Satin Moon brochure by mid-May.

See Calico Cupboard's brochure: <http://tinyurl.com/7fl9um>

On April 22nd I will be flying to Hawaii to teach on a quilting cruise! I have been gathering my shorts and t-shirts, sandals and sunscreen over the past week. I can't wait to meet my students and see the Islands. I'm sure I will come back with lots of inspiration! I'll tell you all about our trip in the May newsletter. It will be about a week late but I know I will have some great pictures to share with you. Until then.....find your inspiration and make a quilt!.

April Umbrellas

Supplies:

Fabric scraps—I enjoyed looking through my stash for some bright prints to make my umbrellas and a soft yellow for the raindrops. You only need small amounts of fabric.

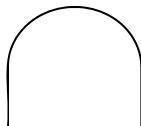
Background fabric—about 9" x 12" to contrast with your umbrellas.

Fusible web—I always use Steam-a-Seam 2 brand fusible. I used the lightweight version for this project.

Other things you will need:

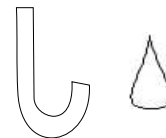
- a small glass to trace around for the curved part of the umbrella
- iron, ironing surface and Teflon pressing sheet (I always use one when fusing—we have these available on our website: www.patchworkstudio.com)
- pencil for tracing shapes and medium-size scissors
- sewing machine and thread for quilting
- *Optional:* decorative rotary cutter blades

1. On the paper side of the fusible web, trace about half way around your glass to make the curve for the umbrella. Then draw straight lines to make a shape like this:



2. Roughly cut around the shape and fuse it to the wrong side of your umbrella fabrics. Make 3 umbrellas with different fabrics. Cut on the traced line. If you have a decorative blade you can use it along the bottom of your umbrella and make wavy strips from contrasting fused fabric to decorate your them. Or use pinking sheers.

3. Draw the umbrella handles and small raindrops on the paper side of the fusible web and fuse them to the wrong side of the fabrics. Just draw shapes like these ones:



4. Arrange the umbrellas, handles and raindrops on the background fabric. Fuse in place (don't forget to use the Teflon sheet to protect your iron).

5. Layer your creation with backing and batting. I used Peltec instead of batting—it's a heavyweight fusible interfacing. Then have fun playing with some machine stitching. When all the stitching is done, trim the edges with a fancy blade or add binding in the traditional way.

**Let's hope the rain
DOES bring those
May flowers!**

