

AFRICAN MOTIFS IN DESIGN

Africa is a huge continent with a rich and varied textile history. This class gives you the opportunity to enjoy some of the exciting array of African textiles made over the centuries, from Egyptian appliqué, to woven Kente cloth and contemporary printed and embellished work. After seeing lots of pictures and actual textiles, **you may choose to work by hand or machine or both to make your own quilt top.** Using an exciting **African motif and design approach**, you will learn new ways of breathing life, rhythm and color into your quilts.

The motifs available for your use in the class cover a range of representational images of birds and animals to strong symbolic abstract designs.

Tips and demonstrations on techniques will be given, and you may choose to enrich your work with embellishments.

REQUIREMENTS

- Sewing machine, cleaned and oiled and in good working order. Bring manual and knee lift (if your machine has one).
Extension cord with appropriate multiplug/adaptor
Machine needles: usually Schmetz Universal 80
- Thread: usually neutral sewing thread. I prefer mercerized cotton.
- Pins
- Rotary cutter (with sharp blade), and mat
- Fabric and paper scissors
- Plastic rulers of your choice
- Batting – approx 1m x 1½m to use as design wall
- Notebook with pens or pencils

Optional:

- *Iron-on Fusible of your choice (e.g Steam-a-Seam, Wonder Under etc)*
- *Hand applique needles*
- *Embroidery threads in a variety of colors and weights*
- *Embroidery scissors.*
- *Beads*

PREPARATION

Find as many pictures and books of African design and colors that you can. Take note of colors and motifs that you like. Bring your favorites to class,