

Blair Stocker/Wise Craft Handmade

Teaching Experience and Current Workshops

My passion is finding personal meaning in patchwork, and exploring the concepts of upcycling and creative reuse. Inspired by vintage, forgotten, and collected textiles, I share my philosophies of “use what you have”, “show your hand in the work”, and “there are no mistakes” to teach a variety of quilt-related workshops and lectures.

I’m Blair Stocker, a former textile and apparel designer, and I’ve been a prolific creative my whole life, as well as a quilter for 20+ years. I’ve developed a keen sense of color and design, and create dynamic quilts, quilt patterns, and tools for the modern quilter under my brand, Wise Craft Handmade. I’ve authored two books, Wise Craft: Turning Thrift Store Finds, Fabric Scraps, and Natural Objects into Stuff You Love, and my latest, Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide To Turning Beloved Fabric Into Meaningful Patchwork. I explore a combination of traditional and modern sewing techniques and apply them to today’s quilt making. I’m based in Seattle, Washington

“Blair gets it. Cloth and creating can be fraught with “but I don’t want to ruin it!” but with her experience and guidance, fears step aside and you’re left with accomplishments- and friends!”

I currently offer the following lectures and workshops.

Blair’s 2019 Lectures

Wise Craft Quilts- My Journey as a Quilt Maker and Love of Upcycling- 60-90 minute

An exploration of color! Presented as a PowerPoint lecture and trunk show with lots of actual quilts. I will discuss my personal background as an apparel and fabric designer, and how switching gears to become a mom helped me discover an entirely new creative direction. I will share tips on how to shop, prepare, and use upcycled and unconventional materials for your quilts, how to get inspired by your favorite colors and fabrics, and we’ll end with a Q & A.

Needs for the lecture space- Two large tables: one for my products, one for quilts used in the presentation, a Wi-Fi connection. I bring my own projector and screen for the presentation. If the group is over 25 people or in a large space, a

mic is helpful if available. It is also helpful to have 2 people available to help hold up and fold quilts during the presentation.

Find the Value in your Scraps! 60-90 minute

Presented as a PowerPoint lecture and trunk show with lots of quilts. Using scrap fabrics and making do is the very essence of quilt making. In this lecture and trunk show, I explain using color value in the old and new fabrics I have collected over the years as a basis for quilts that sparkle! By understanding how to use value in printed fabrics, you can create dynamic quilt layouts that can "trick the eye". This means that the pattern or design appears delightfully scrappy from one perspective, but looks graphic and intentional from another. There are interactive parts of this lecture and chances to exchange scraps and interact as a group.

Needs for the lecture space- Two large tables: one for my products, one for quilts used in the presentation, a Wi-Fi connection. I bring my own projector and screen for the presentation. If the group is over 25 people or in a large space, a microphone is helpful, if available. It is also helpful to have 2 people available to help hold up and fold quilts during the presentation.

Blair's 2019 Workshops

"[Blair's] class really took my sewing skills from basic to more intermediate. There were some things I needed to see to understand. Blair, you are a gift! Thank you."

"Handstitched" English Paper Piecing 3-hour, half-day workshop

Max 25 students

Skill Level- All levels

I love English Paper Piecing almost as much as I love showing my students how easy it is! English Paper Piecing (usually called EPP) is a completely hand stitched and hand pieced method of patchwork. The basis for this workshop is

the project "Handstitched" from my latest book, Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide To Turning Beloved Fabric Into Meaningful Patchwork. Bring a collection of your favorite small bits of scrappy fabrics (or shop the store to find new favorites!). Then, I will guide you through everything you need to know to do this process, how to lay out your design and some clever tricks I've learned over the years I've done EPP. And because this is such a fun, easy project to take anywhere, I'll share how to set up a portable kit for EPP stitching on the go. By the end of the workshop, students will be on their way and have a solid plan. This unique finished piece can be enjoyed either as a mounted wall hanging, or applied onto a base fabric to create a pillow. A relaxing workshop.

Kit Fee for this workshop is \$10.00/student, which includes an entire set of EPP templates to complete the motif.

Needs for the workshop space- Preferable a large table or group of tables with a chair for each student, good lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

The Complete Quilt Design Planner Workshop 6-hour, full day workshop (this can also be done as a 2 day, intensive workshop)

Max 10 students

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

If you've ever wanted to design your own quilt, this workshop will show you how! You have the fabric, let's use it! This is the opportunity to gain the skills and confidence to inject your own style into your patchwork. Students will design and piece a quilt top design, based on an easy pattern system I've developed to guide them through it. We'll use the coloring pages provided to create a unique design. I'll demonstrate concepts like using dark and light color value to make a quilt that sparkles, how to break the process of making a quilt up into approachable segments, and the basics of patchwork. After class, I will provide students with links to video tutorials and PDF information sheets on finishing their quilt. Paced to allow optimum time for designing and sewing. It is a lot of fun to watch all the designs come together.

Pattern Fee for this workshop is \$14.00/student, which includes a hard copy of The Complete Quilt Design Planner™ pattern.

Needs for the workshop space- Cutting table space for each student (most of our time will be spent here.) Sewing machine for each student, fitted with patchwork foot, neutral thread, and a design wall space; good overall lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

Upcycle Your Quilting- Exploring Blair's Traditionally Modern

Aesthetic 6-hour, full day workshop (this can also be done as a 2 day, intensive workshop)

Max 10 students

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

*This workshop does not cover t-shirt quilting, please refer to the **T-Shirt Quilting Workshop** that follows.

Approach quilt making in a new way using upcycled and unusual materials! Using concepts I explored prior to and while writing my latest book, Wise Craft Quilts: A Guide To Turning Beloved Fabrics into Meaningful Patchwork, I will guide students while thinking out of the box when it comes to expected materials in quilts. Fabrics that are could be hiding in a drawer, your closet, the attic, or a relatives' house. Cloth you choose may be as cherished as your Dad's favorite shirts, or as mundane as last year's clothes set aside for Goodwill. They'll use the coloring pages provided to create a unique design. I'll demonstrate concepts like using dark and light color value to make a quilt that sparkles, how to break the process of making a quilt up into approachable segments, and the basics of patchwork. After class, I will provide students with video tutorials and PDF information on how to finish their quilt. Paced to allow optimum time for designing and sewing. The size of this class creates a calm yet dynamic learning environment and allows optimum time for me to work with each student to help them develop their ideas, and offer guidance on adding and enhancing their design as needed.

Pattern Fee for this workshop is \$14.00/student, which includes a hard copy of The Complete Quilt Design Planner™ pattern.

Needs for the workshop space- Sewing machine with patchwork foot and design wall space for each student, good overall lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

T-Shirt Quilting- Turn beloved T-shirts into your new favorite quilt

6 hour, full day workshop (this can also be done as a 2 day, intensive workshop)

Max 12 students

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

T-shirt quilts are often one of the first ideas to inspire a new quilter. But if you don't know what to do, it can be one of the most frustrating types of quilts to make! Cause guess what? Knits are comfy and soft because they are stretchy. Quilts are friends with stretchy fabric unless you have some tricks and techniques. If you have ever dreamed of turning a collection of knit t-shirts or baby clothes in a quilt for yourself or someone special, this workshop is for you. I have made custom knit quilts for clients for several years, and I'll share my techniques and strategies for handling and prepping these knit pieces for quilting. Students will plan and begin executing a quilt design based on the collection they bring to class. I'll cover all the basics, prepping to fabrics, efficient and safe rotary cutting, measuring, using a design wall, and general patchwork sewing. I will also work with students to design a quilt layout that will work with their fabrics, one that feels very much like them. The size of this workshop allows for optimum time for me to work with each student and their own personal knit collection.

Pattern Fee for this workshop is \$14.00/student, which includes a hard copy of The Complete Quilt Design Planner™ pattern.

Needs for the workshop space- Sewing machine with patchwork foot and design wall space for each student, good overall lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

Find the Value in Your Scraps!- Improv quilting using color

value 6 hour, full day workshop

Max 25 students

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing) as well as seasoned sewers who are ready for new inspiration.

Bring your scraps and prepare to have some fun! In this dynamic workshop, I will guide students through how I use discern and use dark, medium, and light color value in the fabric prints from my stash. We'll make half square triangles, combine them with charm squares, and each student will design their own unique quilt layout, using the Ruby Ruler as an artist's viewfinder to see the value differences in their fabrics.

Pattern Fee for this workshop is \$30.00/student, which includes a hard copy of The Complete Quilt Design Planner™ pattern and a Ruby Ruler™.

Needs for the workshop space- Sewing machine with patchwork foot and design wall space for each student, good overall lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

Faux Bois Quilted Pillow Workshop 3 hour, half day

Max 25 Students

Skill Level- Designed for confident beginners (must be comfortable with basic machine sewing)

Faux Bois is a French term meaning "false wood". In this workshop, based on a quilt project in my first book, I will literally "walk" students through creating and stitching this beautiful all-over woodgrain quilting texture using a domestic machine and a walking foot. Students will create the front of a pillow cover during the class. Mastering and practicing this texture in class is easy! After class, students will be able to apply this technique to any kind of project needing a little extra texture and body. I'll share tips and tricks for marking fabric, making piping, using a walking foot, etc. This workshop is paced to optimize actual stitching time. Students will leave with a PDF pillow pattern file to finish their project and make more pillows.

Needs for the workshop space- Sewing machine equipped with a walking foot and patchwork foot for each student, good overall lighting, and a Wi-Fi connection.

*Please note that I send a supply list and prep info email to the guild or shop two weeks before the workshop is scheduled. I ask that you send it out to all

who have signed up will have adequate time to prepare all materials and email with questions. Thank you!

2019 Rates

Single Trunkshow/Lecture: \$400, plus expenses

Half Day Workshop (3 hours): \$350, plus expenses

Full Day Workshop (6 hours): \$700, plus expenses

2 Day Workshop (12 hours) \$1300, plus expenses

Car Travel

If your shop or guild is within 90 miles of my home, no lodging will be required, except in the case of inclement weather, Round trip mileage to and from my home to your shop or guild is required at current federal rate (2018 rate \$.54.5 cents per mile). All ferry and turnpike fees must be covered by your guild/organization.

Distances more than 90 miles from my home will require lodging (see lodging, following).

Distances more than 500 miles from my home in any one direction may require lodging along the way in your guild expenses.

Air Travel:

Long distance trunk shows and workshops requiring air fare, guilds/shops are responsible for reimbursement of the purchased ticket as soon as it is purchased. Guilds/shops are also responsible for other fees incurred, such as checked baggage and additional transportation. All receipts will be provided by me. Please note that air travel may occur on the day prior to my visit to your guild, and your guild will be responsible for my lodgings for that night. This is simply to ensure that both the trunk show bags and I arrive in time for the meeting/lecture/workshop. There are many instances where arriving from a long trip on the same day as the lecture or workshop is simply too stressful to be able to do any of it effectively.

Lodging:

In the event that a hotel is required for my stay, for my safety I prefer a secure hotel with all room doors on an inside hallway, accessible through a safe lobby. A place with breakfast included is also great, saves time on busy mornings.

Cancellation Policy:

If for any reason the guild or organization needs to cancel this contract prior to 3 months before the contracted dates, there will be no cancellation fee and all money will be refunded.

If the cancellation occurs *within* 3 months of the contracted dates, there will be a \$100 cancellation fee.

If there are circumstances beyond our control (severe inclement weather, death, etc.) the contract may be terminated without a penalty payment assessed by either party. A rescheduling of the workshop or lecture is always an option.

I will always do my best to keep my contract dates (I've never cancelled), but will give you at least 3 month notice if I need to cancel or reschedule.

Any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch .

Email: blair@wisecrafthandmade.com

Cell: 206-669-8030

Website: <https://wisecrafthandmade.com>

Address: P.O. Box 77526
Seattle, Washington 98133