

SACRED STONE IMPROV WORKSHOP

SUMMARY

With Abigail Vargas
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Skill Level: Intermediate or higher

Discover how to create bold, stone-shaped blocks using improvisational piecing and intuitive design. Students will bring fabric scraps in a variety of colors and prints, orphan blocks to cut up, and/or smaller pre-sewn units such as checks, stripes, or curved mini blocks.

In the first part of the workshop, students will use these materials to quickly create 4" or 6" improv-pieced blocks, relying on intuition and fast decision-making rather than over-planning. The second part of the class focuses on assessing the completed blocks and writing down visual inspiration drawn from the blocks. We will explore how these observations can spark ideas for future personal designs.

In the final portion of the workshop, students will transform their pieced units into wonky snowball blocks using background fabric. The class concludes with arranging the blocks into a final composition and discussing assembly with background sashing.

Designed for intermediate and advanced quilters, this workshop emphasizes building skills to create dynamic quilts rich in color and texture. Participants will leave with a completed mini quilt top or a set of blocks ready for a larger composition, along with the confidence to design and sew quickly from intuition.



Example of quilt with 81-4" blocks



Runner or Wall Hanging



Figure 1: Detailed Example of Blocks

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MATERIAL LIST

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Fabric Recommendations:

- A large selection of quilt fabric scraps with a lot of different color and print choices, including solids.
- Also include a lot of light, medium and dark values of each color
- Optional: Include any orphan blocks you are willing to cut up into new blocks
- Optional: Make checks, stripes or curved mini block unit to cut into additional elements in your piece before the workshop.
- Background fabric: If you want to make the blocks into a runner, wall hanging or pillow, I recommend bringing 1 yard of background fabric. For the blocks themselves, you will only need a fat quarter of the background fabric.

Supplies:

- 45 mm Rotary Cutter
 - Optional: 28 mm Rotary Cutter
 - New Blades installed in rotary cutters
- 4 ½" or 6 ½" Square Rotary Ruler
- Longer Ruler to cut sashing
- Favorite Non-Permanent Fabric Marker
- Scissors
- Neutral color quilt piecing thread
- Standard Quilt Sewing Supplies
- Sewing Machine for Piecing (remember power cord, foot pedal)