

S U E B E N N E R

textile artist

8517 San Fernando Way, Dallas, Texas 75218, 214.796.8089
benner.sue@gmail.com, www.suebenner.com

Sewing the Land Workshop—additional info for students

Hi! Here are some helpful hints to answer some common questions about the supply list for the class. Sue

Photos:

Any format will work, panoramic, square, vertical.

YES, print out images. It will really help.

You will start out with small studies, and for these you will need at least 3 photos. For those, 4x6 photos are fine.

I would suggest 8x10s if you can easily print them, especially for anything you might want to work larger on. We can crop for composition.

I will instruct you on enlarging a composition very simply, but if you are uncertain of your skills to do that, you may also scale it up as a photo or line drawing to final size (before you come) at a copy shop, maybe 20" on the longest side. This works if you have a really good idea on the piece you want to work on as your main project. Most people do NOT come with a full-scale enlargement.

Some people have worked from their phone/iPad/computer (no printed photos) in the past, but I would not suggest it. They found that even a basic black and white printout helped them with composition and scale.

If you have any detail photos from the scene, they can help with depicting the flora or geological structures.

Fabric:

Bring anything that seems cool to you. Batiks and hand-dyes are always good for landscape. But also bring those unruly fabrics with different sheens

—silks, rayons, polys. Enhance your colors beyond what you see. Take the basic palette and then push it some, or a lot.

A few students have brought batik “jelly rolls” for use in class. This provided a large selection of fabrics in a wide range of color and value. These can be fused by lining them up on Wonder-Under with the tiniest bit of overlap. The can then be ironed to the fusible and brought in sheet or cut apart. Another possibility is to bring a bundle/skein of sari strips. These are very narrow but can offer a variety of silks in different colors.

Fusible Products:

I understand the trouble that some of you have had with Wonder Under. They have a bad "batch" out there (believe me, I and many others have contacted Pellon). The good kind has a translucent release paper, but it is hard to know if you got the right stuff if you aren't familiar with it. But, we can still work with it.

Yes, you can use the Steam-a-Seam 2 Lite (official name?) product, especially if you already have it and you like working with it. I don't care for it but that's me.

Soft Fuse (has release paper backing) is another good product, and is available online. Misty Fuse and Spunfab are good, too, but you will need more parchment paper as they doesn't come with release paper.