

# HOW TO MAKE A PAPER QUILT

## SUPPLY LIST

by Jane Mathews

Paper quilts are made by combining techniques of cloth quilts and collage. These instructions you will receive in class will apply to both mediums.

### SUPPLIES:

Assorted papers such as: magazines, photo copies of your camera images, maps, wrapping paper, sewing pattern paper, old books, documents, junk mail, and fabric that doesn't stretch, such as broadcloth.

Backing paper to support your work whether you sew or glue; typing paper is a good weight. No to newspaper.

Scissors, thread, (sewing machine)

Adhesives such as: Glue stick, YES paste, matte medium, wall paper paste. I am not fond of Elmers as it stretches the paper if doing collage. Artists tape helps hold pieces in place when sewing.

IDEAS: Start with something familiar to you. If you make fabric quilts, use a pattern you know for your first paper quilt. For beginners, start small, maybe no bigger than 15" x 15". Repeated shapes such as squares or rectangles are easy to assemble. A collection of family photos, or variations on a theme, trees, flowers, houses.

A crazy quilt. A story quilt. Honoring a person or event. Tree of Life. A fantasy landscape, still life, garden, or room interior, using images cut from books and magazines or from your own photos. Multiple copies of the same image can make interesting kaleidoscopic effects. Combine with other media such as paint, colored pencil.

SEWING PAPER: Practice machine sewing with different types of paper, they all behave differently. Try straight stitch and zigzag. Practice stitching along straight edges and curved edges. Straight and pattern stitches can be repeated to outline to embellish the paper surface. Magazine paper is slippery and misbehaves; handmade paper sometimes pulls up with the needle. Thin papers may need to be glued to a backing, so they won't tear.

GLUING PAPER: Test glues and pastes, as some papers, such as magazine papers, are resistant to glues. An adhesive might soak through, changing the paper surface. Test overlapping paper and abutting edges.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES: Become familiar with use of color, value, shape, pattern, repetition. Simplify. Good composition is based on design principles. The tendency is to put in too much in your first works. Two different pieces are better than one that tries to include too much. Research other quilts, artwork, architecture, etc, for ideas and study how these objects work as good composition.