

Art Cloth
By Kathy L., details below

Art Cloth From Gesso, Cheesecloth, Paper and Stitch

By Kathy L.

This technique creates a firm, flexible and beautifully textured fabric suitable for book covers, collage, or you-name-it embellishments. I've adapted it from an article by Pauline Verrinder in *Quilting Arts* Feb/Mar 2012.

The fabric's made by layering cotton cloth, gesso, small text pieces (or bits of lace, ribbon, fabric scraps, tissue, etc.), paint, cheesecloth, and stitch. Additional layers of embellishment can be added after stitching.

Preparation:

1. Cover work surface with plastic.
2. Cut or tear white cotton to about 12x12 for a nice-sized usable sample.
3. Select cheesecloth 2" inches larger on all sides than the base cloth. Distress it by pulling, tearing, stretching, distorting.
4. Select text or images from newspaper, old book pages, or magazines. Tear into 1"-2" inch strips or squares.
5. Dilute white or clear gesso 1:1 with water in a small plastic tub; divide into 2 or more plastic containers (small cottage cheese size) and mix with paints in your colour choice.

Procedure:

1. Place base cloth on work table and spray lightly with water on both sides, till just damp.
2. At the same time spray cheesecloth, and set aside.
3. Paint base cloth with gesso mixtures, blending colours as you like.
4. While it's still wet, press prepared text, lace or other scraps onto the gesso.
5. Gently sponge on inks, acrylics, watercolour, etc. in colors that complement your design. Use transparent colours if you want your images or text to remain visible.
6. Drape cheesecloth over the gesso-and-paint-covered fabric, stretching, folding, and arranging it to create a pleasing texture, and pressing it down well. Be sure it covers to the edges of the base cloth.
7. Sponge paint/gesso once again over all. For this final layer I mixed clear gesso with transparent acrylics in order to preserve the visibility of my text and lace pieces.
8. Let dry overnight on the plastic. Flip over to be sure it's dry on the underside.
9. Stitch the fabric all over by machine or hand to make it stable.

Further embellishing possibilities:

- After stitching, highlight the fabric's texture with Shiva paint sticks, oil pastels or spray paints.
- Glide Shiva oil sticks over the "hills" of the fabric, then rub in with a gloved hand to make the oil gleam. It takes about 48 hours for the oils to fully dry, and a week to quit smelling. Oil pastels take far longer to dry but are not as stinky.
- The oils will act as a resist for any subsequent painting.
- Encaustic wax applied with a Clover quilting iron melts nicely into the texture, or can be applied to the cheesecloth strands for surface-only effects.
- Embroidery? Beading?

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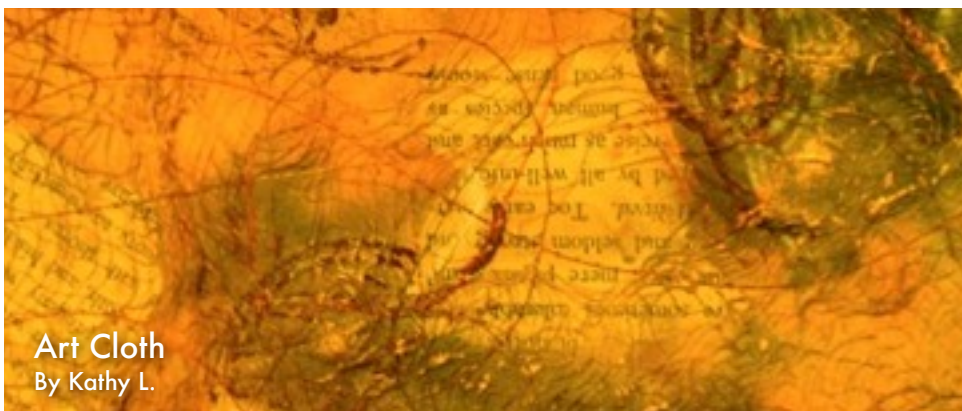
Fibre Arts Week at the Bloomin' Inn Ranch near Pincher Creek, 10 -16 June 2013

A fantastic opportunity awaits textile enthusiasts in southern Alberta! In its third year, Fibre Arts week offers a variety of workshops of interest to anyone who might want to explore new techniques or artistic applications in quilting, applique, knitting, spinning, weaving, willow basket making or fabric techniques such as blueprinting on fabric, rug hooking and Sashiko stitching. The event includes various demonstrations, several contests and opportunities to shop at the Fibre Arts Mall.

This year, workshop participants can take classes from well-known instructors such as Elly Sienkiewicz, famous for her many books about Baltimore Album quilts, Joen Wolfrom, author of several books on quilt design, Barb Brown, expert on sock, lace and Fair Isle knitting, and Caroline Sommerfield who is offering 14 mini workshops on spinning, to name a few. For complete information about the workshops, instructors, registration details, go to www.fibreartsweek.com or call the Fibre Arts Week organizer, Laurel Francis at 403.627.5034.

Be sure to check this out soon. Until 15 March, workshop registrants who register in a group of three will receive a discount of 10% on workshop fees.

The workshops are held at the Bloomin' Inn Ranch near Pincher Creek and accommodation is available to workshop participants, at the Ranch.



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ASK

Your Skills Are Needed Help the TSDG Today

1. Garage Sale Help

On April 11 we require help to organize goods for the garage sale.

On April 12 we will do the pricing. Volunteers required

On April 13 the day of the sale volunteers are required.

2. Spring Sale Help

Volunteers required

Set up April 26, 6.30pm to 9pm

3. Spring Sale Help

Volunteers required

10am to 4pm

Sale April 27, and take down after

4. Workshop

Angel and billet volunteer

required, Sign up sheet at March meeting. Dates May 2-5

5. Moving Help

Volunteers required

May 6-10

This spring we have the challenge of moving to the CASA centre.

Watch for email details. Call

Cheryl to volunteer.

Contact Us

For more information or to respond to any of the items in this newsletter, please contact Cheryl Atkinson, TSDG president by email at idealfm@telusplanet.net or by phone at 403.320.9174. General information and an up to date program calendar may be found on our website at: surfacedesignlethbridge.ca

Supported in part by a grant from the



Breaking News - TSDG Exhibition Opportunities

Congratulations to Linda T. for volunteering to lead the newly formed TSDG exhibitions committee! Many creative and lively shows are under development by these talented members. In addition to our ongoing "Reclaimed" challenge, two separate showcase displays have been organized for May 2013.

LPL Cases - May

The showcase display at the main branch of the Lethbridge Public Library will feature basic fibres used in TSDG artwork. The idea is to choose a small number of raw materials such as cotton,

wool, silk, leather etc and display samples of various stages of processing (seed pods, raw fibre, yarn etc), specialized processing tools and small artworks that feature various uses for that material. As an example, if wool were chosen, a toy sheep, carded fleece, carding and spinning tools, felted artwork, small knitted or woven items or even small garments sewn from wool fabrics could be part of the display.

One small and two large showcases are available to be filled; the final decision on which raw materials to feature will depend on the number and type of articles volunteered by members. As this

is a TSDG exhibit, a good selection of fibre art created by members is a must. The cocoons, carders, and spinning tools are important additions but not the main event. Dig through your personal collections now and contact Cheryl A. promptly with a list of potential contributions to this show.

CASA Window - May

Also in May, the TSDG has been invited to create a showcase display for the grand opening of CASA. Let's use this opportunity to show Lethbridge what the TSDG can do! Our new committee has some exciting ideas that revolve around poetry. Join us for a brainstorming session on Saturday March 9 at 1 pm in the studio to work out the details. Once the theme and guidelines have been set, information will be circulated to all members so that they may submit work for consideration.

Housekeeping

As is the case with most TSDG displays, insurance is the responsibility of the artist for pieces included in either show. A completed "Call for Entry" form must accompany all work submitted. Artwork chosen to be included in TSDG shows will be selected so as to create a cohesive display within the available space which shows each artwork to its best advantage.



An example of a CASA showcase window

Textile Surface Design Guild in partnership with **Kreative Momentum**

LISA GREY

The Art of Looking Sideways: Connecting Creativity and Play



For more information about Lisa Grey, please visit lisagrey.com

May 3, 4, 5, 2013
Bowman Arts Centre,
Lethbridge, Alberta

"This workshop will challenge participants to start with what is familiar, then venture into unexplored territory in discovering how to approach our work in new ways. We will create tools from found objects in order to print and pattern recycled and reclaimed papers and fabrics, then make a series of small compositions generated from simple, playful design exercises. We will consider ways to further alter the surface by cutting, tearing, reassembling, layering and stitching. Along the way we will evaluate our work both individually and collectively with the end goal of using supplies and knowledge we already have, combined and integrated with new ideas and techniques into concrete plans for further exploration. Above all, we will endlessly question, yet trust our instincts as we imagine alternative possibilities."

Lisa Grey

Cost \$200.00 for TSDG members,
\$250.00 for non TSDG members.

Limited spaces available, 15 participants maximum

Registrations are first come first serve, a \$100.00 deposit is required to secure your space. Contact Cheryl Atkinson at (403) 320-9174 or surfacedesignlethbridge@gmail.com for more information or to register.

With the support of



surfacedesignlethbridge.ca

Showcase Display
Brainstorming Session on
Saturday March 9 at 1 pm
details above

Programs

All programs take place in our studio on the lower level of the Bowman Arts Centre unless otherwise noted. Check our website for updates at: surfacedesignlethbridge.ca

MARCH

9

1pm
Studio
Brainstorming Session for Showcase Display

13

7 - 9pm
Studio
Watercolour Batik - Discover how different resist products interact with dyes and paints to create watercolour effects on silk. Hands on, all materials supplied.

23

1 - 4 pm
New home of Marilyn C. Wallis Allen presenter
W.O.R.D. P.L.A.Y.
Is it letters? Words? Playing with letters, words and text and their application to the textile arts.

APRIL

10

7 - 9 pm
Studio
Scraps of Wisdom - Spooling Poetic. Wendy Desjardins will lead us as we create miniature poetry scrolls with wooden spools and other household scraps.

11-12

Time TBA
Home of Alvina R.
Garage Sale Set Up and Pricing

13

8 am - 3 pm
Alvina R's
Garage Sale and Pot Luck Lunch

22

No more work in the Studio until after Spring Sale

25

2 - 6 pm
Studio
Drop off work for Spring Sale

26

6:30 - 9 pm
Bowman Music Room
Set Up for Spring Sale

27

10 am - 4 pm
Bowman Music Room
Spring Sale

MAY

2

7 pm
Galt Museum
Artist Talk with Lisa Grey (to be confirmed)

3-5

Friday through Sunday
9:30 - 4:30 pm
Bowman Music Room
Workshop
The Art of Looking Sideways

4

Time and location TBA
Meet the Artist Pot Luck
Dinner with Lisa Grey (to be confirmed, Lisa follows a vegan, gluten free diet)

6 - 11

May 6 - 11
Tentative dates for studio move

15

7 - 9 pm
CASA Textile Studios:
Hands on demos of wet felting, needle felting and the use of the embellisher machine

25

1 - 4 pm
CASA Meeting Rooms
Reclaimed challenge results, business meeting