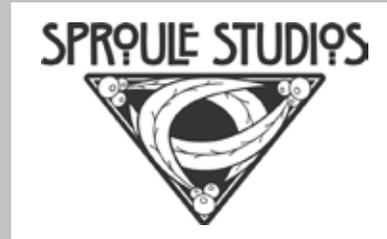


April Sproule

Artist • Designer • Teacher



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Paint and Stitch Workshops

Even though I have been a textile artist for many years, it seems that the longer I am involved in this field, the more joy and enthusiasm I bring to my work and my teaching.

Encouraging each student to value their intuition and develop their own personal artistic style remain at the forefront of my particular style of teaching. I urge students to take calculated risks and follow their hearts on a wondrous, rewarding, and creative adventure.

While some of my workshops are technique based, others are structured around a particular project that will help students develop various skills. The workshops range in skill level from beginning to intermediate, and color and design are an integral part of every workshop that I teach. My goal is to provide my students with the knowledge and skills to help their creative visions become a reality.

April Sproule



Stenciling on Fabric

Levels: All

Duration: 1-2 Days: Can be extended to a second day with machine quilting of project added if desired.

Stenciling has received somewhat of a bad rap over the years due to the limited and design options available, but I aim to change that in this empowering workshop as I lead students through my basic stenciling techniques and quickly move on to the more advanced shading and composition options available using my **Textile Design Stencils**.

Even those who think that they can't draw or paint are able to create stunning work that can later be framed or quilted. I also encourage participants in class to create "upcycled" projects from discarded items.

Block Printing on Fabric

Levels: All

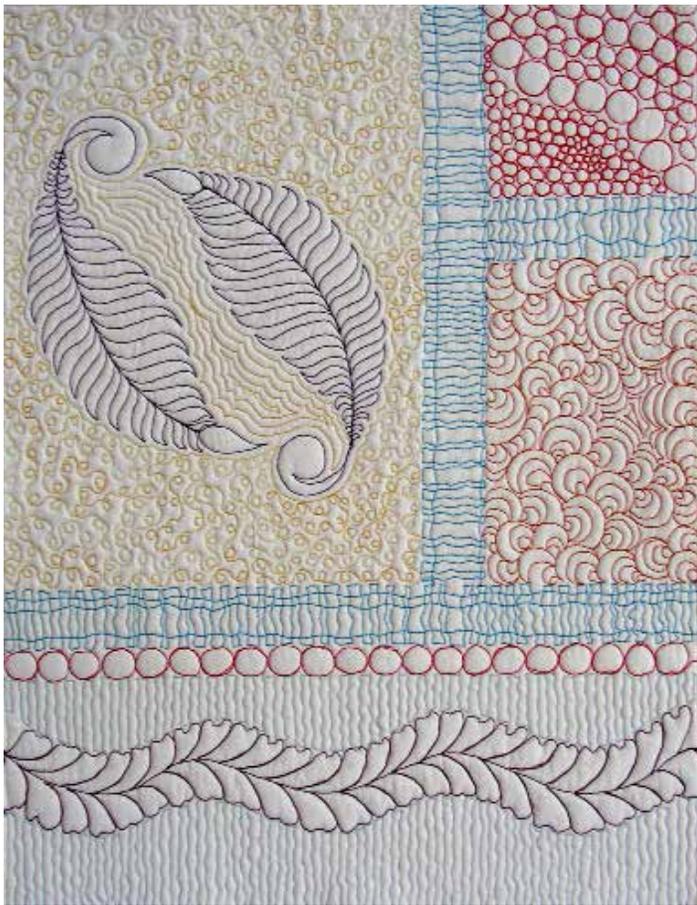
Duration: 1-2 Days: Can be extended to a second day with machine quilting of project added if desired.

Block printing on fabric is a perfect way to create beautiful handmade items with your own personal flair. This is a very easy technique that lends itself to not only very simple but also much more ornate designs as well.

Students will learn to carve their own designs into soft rubber blocks for stamping, but ready made designs will also be provided for use in class. Students will then print their own fabric that can be used in quilting projects, home decor, clothing, and as well as paper items like cards if desired.

Water based inks will be used; they are permanent and washable after heat setting.





Creative Machine Quilting

Levels: Beginning to Intermediate

Duration: 1-2 Days: Can be extended to a second day with an emphasis on wholecloth quilting the second day.

This class was developed for beginning machine quilters as well as those who feel stuck and just need a jump start for their quilting skills. I will present an overview of batting, thread, needle, and fabric choices; I will also discuss their particular advantages and drawbacks. Once the basics of machine quilting are covered, students will move on to learning several different fill patterns as well as tackling various motifs.

I will share my special technique that I have created for quilting design development and my very valuable method for the marking of the quilt top. This class can be modified for more accomplished students as well.

Contemporary Hand Embroidery

Levels: All

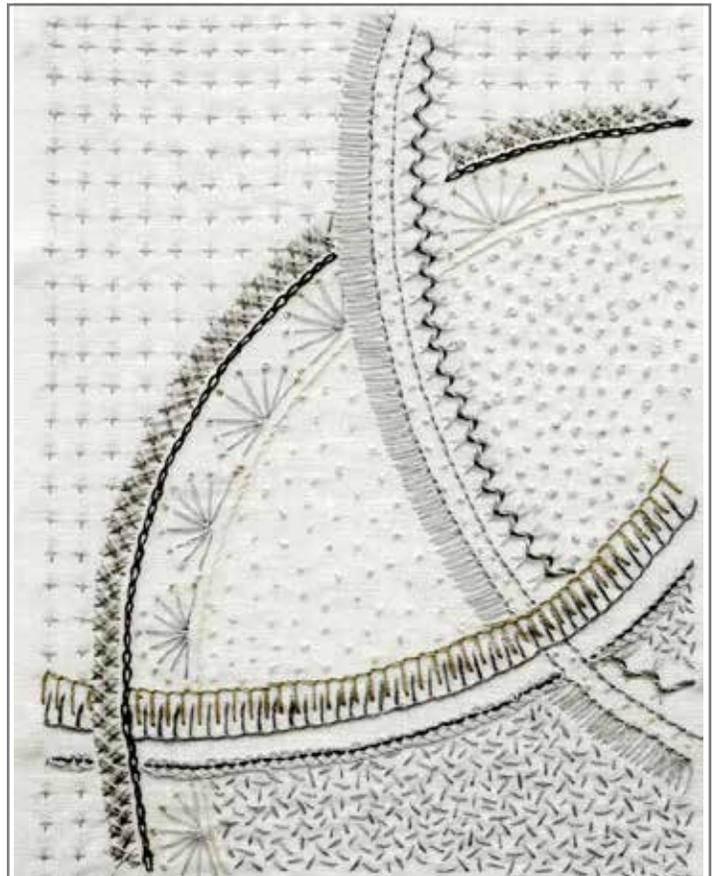
Duration: 1-2 Days:

Many of us learned to embroider from our grandmothers, as did I. But nowadays, we have many inexpensive tools and guides to make the process even more simple and enjoyable.

This type of hand embroidery is very easy to learn as I guide students through fabric selection, marking tools, and choosing from the many different types of stitches. Detailed instruction will be given on creating the various stitches.

Fun, enjoyable, and rewarding, this work lends itself to many different types of uses such as the embellishment of clothing, fiber arts projects, and small gift items.

Participants will create a small sampler, wall-hanging, or pillow top so they have something to show for their efforts.





Options Available

I offer some flexibility in presenting these classes. If your group would like to focus on one thing in particular, or combine the workshops I offer in a particular way, I am open to suggestions to best be able to meet your needs.

Most workshops can be taught either as a one or two day workshop. Of course, we are able to cover a lot more information and get a lot more done in a two day workshop.

Contacts/ Social Media Resources

- Website: <https://www.sproulestudios.com>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sproulestudios/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sprouleapril/>
- Blog: <http://sproulestudios.blogspot.com/>

Upcycled Clothing

Levels: All

Duration: 1-2 Days

Beginning with an existing garment, students in this workshop will create a one-of-a kind wearable art piece using the Textile Design Stencils along with hand or machine embroidery and embellishments.

This workshop is a great introduction to new techniques, and students will find the upcycling process of turning a plain, boring piece of clothing into something fantastic to be extremely gratifying. If students feel even more adventurous, they can cut apart additional garments and combine them in different ways as I have in the sample above.

Although a tunic is shown, T-shirts, skirts, unlined jackets, and other garments will also work for these techniques.

More →

Educational Background

I received my professional training from San Francisco School of Fashion Design where I studied Fashion Illustration, Costume History, Flat Pattern Drafting and Grading, French Draping, and both Couture and Production Sewing Techniques. In recent years I have also had the good fortune to study in the field of surface design with many of the best textile artists in the world. I have continued to supplement my education with art classes, digital video production, photography, English classes, computer classes, and large number of business classes

Employment History

For 20 years I was employed by many different businesses in the United States and Canada who manufactured a vast array of items ranging from lingerie to leather goods. My area of expertise was in production management and new product development. I have been self-employed for the past twenty years at Sproule Studios where I offer longarm quilting, surface design and quilting workshops, and consultation services to my clientele.

Teaching Experience

I have been teaching workshops on numerous topics in the textile arts field for the past twenty years for quilt guilds, here at my textile arts studio for the past ten years, and more recently College of the Redwoods Community Education Program.

Exhibitions and Awards: Please view my website if you are interested in this facet of my artistic career as they are too numerous to list here.

Publications

In 2011 I began writing articles on surface design and quilting for various publications.

1. Sproule, April (2011). The Anatomy of a Wholecloth. Machine Quilting Unlimited, November/ December 2011. Pages 52-57.

2. Sproule, April (2011). From Technician to Artist. Machine Quilting Unlimited, January/February 2012. Pages 56-60.

3. Sproule, April (2012). Amazing Arashi Shibori. Quilting Arts Magazine, April/May 2012. Pages 16-20.

4. Sproule, April (2012). The Great Dye Experiment: Silk vs. Cotton. Surface Explorations, April/ May 2012. Online publication.

Presentation and Workshop Fees

Workshops: \$600.00 per day for up to 20 students, and then an additional \$40.00 per person.

Lectures: \$450.00, 1 to 1 1/2 hours long.

Transformation from Technician to Artist

I discuss how my artistic style has evolved over the past twenty years along with a trunk show featuring many of my favorite quilts to illustrate my progress.

Sources of Inspiration

Becoming aware of your surroundings and all the other design influences and resources around us can be incredibly helpful.

Creative Genius: The Myth

Many people think talented artists are just born that way. I aim to dispel that myth and help people see that they can accomplish whatever they set out to do creatively.

Additional Fees: All lodging, transportation, and meals will be reimbursable to me.

Note: Please visit my website for additional images of workshop samples