

Karen Brow-Meier Lectures 2022-2023

NOTE: All lectures are available in person or in Zoom virtual format.



The **SMUGGLE** Principles

The seven design elements which make a quilt “sing!”

- S slight asymmetry
- M movement
- U unexpected technique
- G gentle humor
- G graceful disruption of edges/borders
- L something lovable
- E elegant details

I'd love to share with you some techniques which have become a signature of my patterns and their distinct and joyful style. I have some slightly irreverent methods for creating memorable quilts with uniqueness, gentle humor and movement, and you'll see how to incorporate them in your next project. This lecture and slide show is rich with colorful photography of examples, illustrations and explanations of design elements honed in over 20 years of pattern writing and rewarding quilting.



Capturing Animal Personalities

Are Your Quilts Alive?

Every animal has a distinct silhouette, a recognizable visual signature that uniquely distinguishes it from all others. By including just one animal block or appliqué you can add joyful personality to your next project.

So how do we capture that? Can I just use my favorite pet photo? How do I make it look like my own dog, cat or much-loved pet? Are there less complicated ways to add color, shading and piecing? And how can technology assist us? (Hint: in so many ways!)

This lecture presents examples of animals with personality and liveliness and the methods and ideas used to create them. From finding the right image, to using your computer or copier to enhance it, you'll get new ideas & techniques for your next project.



Color Osmosis?

What we learn from a beautiful stash

Does our stash do more than just make us happy?

I have noticed over the years that my stash fabrics (particularly batiks) have a way of imprinting their color combinations on my mind. I have created entire quilts only to notice *LATER* that the exact color palate existed in my stash in the form of a treasured batik.

This is what I mean by “color osmosis.” We constantly receive impressions and information from the fabrics (and other art) around us, whether or not we realize it at the time. So I believe it’s important to surround ourselves with inspiration.

Beautiful fabrics teach us a lot about color in terms of balance, combinations and seeing palates in nature we can use in our own work. We can learn to “read” a color palate and understand why it works (or not) and how to make sure our quilts avoid common color errors. Even if you’ll never use the fabric in a quilt, if you see something which speaks to you I believe it’s important to “plant” some in your stash. Something beautiful is sure to grow!



Movin' On!

The magic of movement in quilts

Why should we worry about creating movement in our compositions?

Interest.

While color, pattern and workmanship create beauty, movement creates interest. It's a guaranteed "wow factor" and adds a certain sophistication. We can create it using appliqué, and curves, adjusting a composition, incorporating asymmetrical shapes, and unique border treatments.

In writing patterns for over 20 years I've seen how movement in a composition absolutely draws people in. I'll show you lots of unique ways to create it often with a bit of humor that seems to just delight.

