

Lotus

inspired by Silhouette Quilts by Maggie Weiss

Quilt by: Becky Glasby



Featured Artist: Maggie Weiss

Maggie Weiss



"For as long as I can remember, I have loved fabric, texture, and creating things. I was immediately hooked after learning to sew on a machine in fifth grade. Many years, craft projects and mediocre garments later, quilting became the perfect outlet for combining my penchant for textiles with sewing and art making. Not long thereafter, I discovered how to transform yardage with dyeing, painting, stamping and other Surface Design processes. Integrating these methods has led me to my most recent work, in which the quilt surface is assembled in layers, with pieces of hand dyed and printed fabrics forming the base on which intricately cut silhouettes are overlaid."

Maggie has been sewing and creating for over 35 years. Based in Evanston, IL she teaches quilting, surface design, and ThermoFax silkscreen classes regionally, nationally, and at the Evanston Art Center. Her work has been in exhibitions in private collections all over the United States and England.

Website: www.MaggieWeiss.com



Inspiration



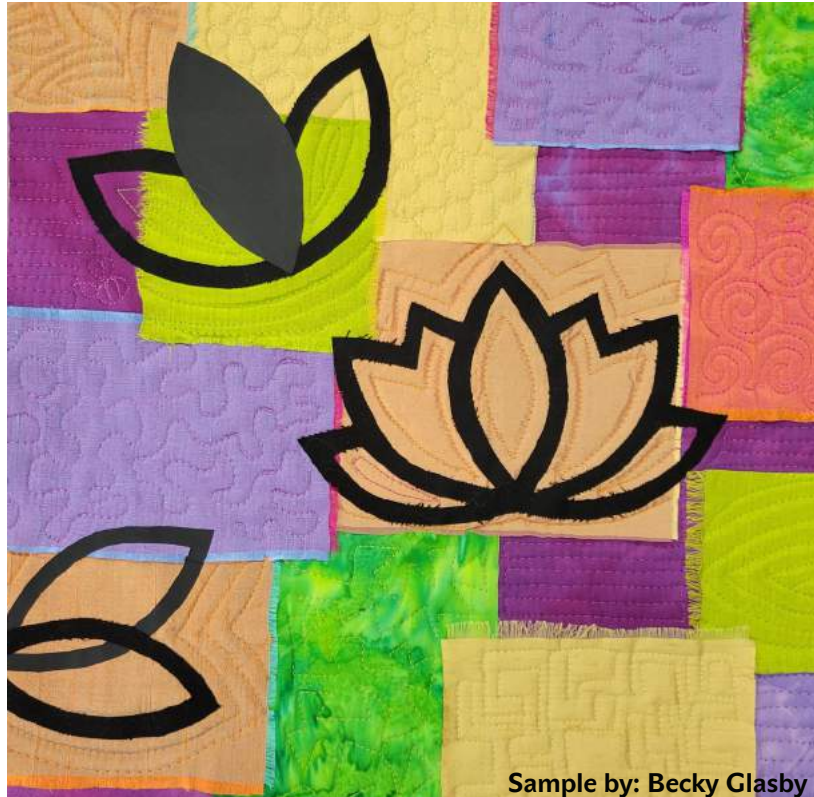
"Combining principles of composition, design, and collage with art cloth and quilting is the best of both worlds. Creating the illusion of three dimensions on a two-dimensional surface is a continually captivating challenge. My goal as an artist is to create a compelling surface that invites the viewer to react, take a closer look, and to strive to bring beauty or awareness into the world."

Crocus by Maggie Weiss

Corner Gallery exhibit: *Silhouette Quilts* by Maggie Weiss is at the National Quilt Museum August 13 - October 12, 2021



Sample Block



Supplies:

- 15" square of backing fabric and batting
- Assorted pieces of cottons, hand-dyed fabrics, or silks
- ~10" square of Black fabric
- Fusible web
- Quilting threads that color coordinate

Cutting:

To create the layered, collage effect in the quilt block, you'll need a variety of squares and rectangles so you'll probably need to cut more than one of each size as you get going.

Cut one of each suggested size from your chosen fabrics to start. You may find a different size works better based on number of fabrics.

- 6" x 4 ½" rectangles
- 3 ½" x 5 ½" rectangles
- 3 ½" x 3 ½" squares

TIP: If using silks, carefully pull some threads loose from the edges to give a frayed look to the fabric squares for added texture.



Creating the Background

Photo 1



1. Layer the batting and backing fabrics together.
2. Arrange several squares on top of the batting in an overlapping style to start forming the background (Photo 1).
3. Continue to layer more pieces until you're satisfied with the layout. This may mean cutting more pieces, moving them around, adding or taking away pieces or colors to create balance (Photos 2 & 3).

Photo 2



TIP: Taking pictures once the layout is decided can be helpful as a reference.

Photo 3





Making the Silhouettes

Photo 4



4. Print out the lotus outlines on Page 10. Trace the outlines onto the paper side of the fusible (Photo 4).

5. Cut these shapes out of the fusible, leaving a little extra outside the drawn line. Then carefully cut out the inside of the leaves and petals, leaving a little extra inside the line (Photo 5).

6. Place the fusible outlines onto the wrong side of the black fabric and iron in place (Photo 6).

TIP: It's a good idea to test fusible on the non-cotton fabrics first. Be sure to adjust the iron temperature based on the type of fabric you're using. For example, silks use a lower iron temp. than cottons and may take more time to fuse properly.

Photo 5



Photo 6





Making the Silhouettes

Photo 7

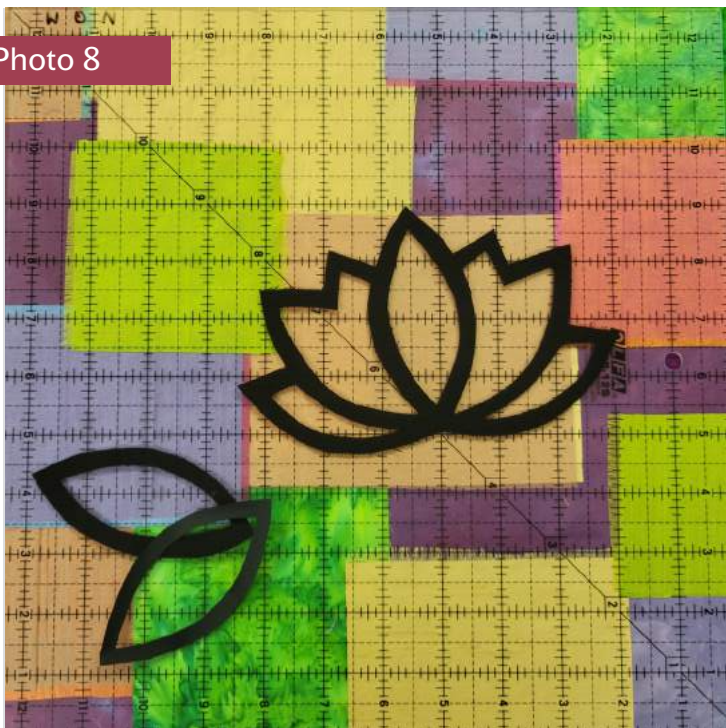


7. Cut out the shapes from the black fabric, this time on the drawn lines. Carefully cut out the centers. The silhouettes will be about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick once cut (Photo 7).

8. Once you have your silhouettes ready, remove any remaining paper, and place them onto the collaged background fabrics, making sure they will be inside the $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " final block size (Photo 8).

9. Iron the silhouettes in place. If you need to pin baste through the layers to move it to the ironing board, make sure the pins are away from where the iron will need to sit.

Photo 8





Quilting

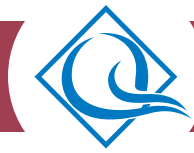
Photo 9



1. Pin through all the layers of fabric to baste the quilt. Straight pins worked well for such a small piece (Photo 9).
2. Start by outlining around the silhouette shapes with a walking foot or free-motion foot (Photo 10).

Photo 10





Quilting

Photo 11



3. Continue adding quilting in each of the pieces, staying within each shape's boundaries. This allows those frayed edges of fabric to add texture and dimension (Photo 11).

I used a variety of free-motion designs in the quilt, keeping the same design in pieces of the same color. I included: stippling, an angular stipple, swirls, pebbles, and a boxy stipple.

Photo 12



TIP: Remember to practice a free-motion design with pen and paper first to get the rhythm of it!

4. Once it's completely quilted, trim the block to 12 ½" x 12 ½" square (Photo 12).

Finished?
Fantastic!



Lotus Outline

