

M. Coribean March 10, 1977

MAKING A PICTORIAL QUILT

STEPS IN CREATING A PICTORIAL QUILT BLOCK:

1. Make sure that your block conforms with the theme selection.
2. Make sure that the block conforms with the size required.
3. Design your block. This is the hardest part for most of us. Sketch many ideas.
4. Make the pattern for your block:
Use graph paper and carefully draw your design to the actual size. SIMPLIFY your design for ease in working and for best effect. Eliminate all of the details. These can be put in later with embroidery, etc. You can colour the drawing if you like or simply leave the colours to be dictated by your materials. Colouring it in helps to give you an idea for things to look for and for colour balance in your block.
5. Make the patterns for the pieces. Trace each component part separately onto a piece of tracing paper. Trace the pattern pieces with carbon onto the material that you will use. Dressmaker's carbon only, please.
Cardboard templates can be used.
6. Cut out the pieces, BEING SURE TO LEAVE AT LEAST $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for seam allowances.
7. Fabrics which you select should have been chosen with the following qualities in mind: texture, colour, design, shapes and feelings that you want to convey.
8. Pin the fabrics in place, working from the back outwards. Pin the background in place first and then work forward with your picture, overlapping and underlapping as the design dictates. DO NOT ABUTT THE EDGES.
9. Applique the pieces in place on the ground material and use a thread that matches the piece being applied to the ground.
10. Stuff where necessary, cutting tiny slits in the backing and poking the stuffing in, sew up the slits. Do not over stuff!
11. Embellish with embroidery, beads, paint, braid, sequins, etc.
12. Sign it.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

1. Sequins can be used for eyes, highlights and lights.
2. If a figure is very detailed, use a silhouette.
3. Brushed yarn can be used for hair or embroidery.
4. Buttons, trims, etc. must in scale. Use wire for glasses or embroider.
5. All kinds of materials can be used if it is not to be washed.
6. Folds in clothing can be achieved by stuffing one part of the dress and not the other.
7. Felt is useful if there is much detail.
8. Colour is very important; should be bright, clear with good contrasts.
9. Windows are effective in houndstooth check or gingham. Can be of orange or yellow if you want the rooms to appear lighted.
10. When looking at materials, focus on a very small section; almost everything will go together in small quantities.
11. Unusual colours are all right if the look is primitive. Red clouds are an example.
12. Figures can be shown from the back or sideways for simplification.
13. Gold or silver tape, thread, braid, etc. highlight details.
14. Show people in action!
15. Stitchery is important for highlighting, creating texture, adding details and dimension.

LET YOURSELF GO AND BE CREATIVE!