

Transparency: Parent/Child and Layered Strategies

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Supply list

Recommended books: *The Quilter's Color Club (C&T)*, available in class

Rotary mat, ruler, and cutter (treat yourself to a new blade)

Two regular-size glue sticks or one large one (make sure they're fresh)

You'll need a wide variety of fabrics, from all around the color wheel. Take the time to plan ahead and shop to have what you need. Following is a list of the twelve colors on the wheel with a few common names in parentheses to help you visualize what they look like. (In reality, there are *many* versions of each color.) Try to bring at least one light, medium, and dark for each color listed here. If you can bring more versions of each color, that's even better—you'll have greater success (and more fun) with lots of fabrics!

- Yellow (primary yellow, daffodil)
- Yellow-green (olive, apple green)
- Green (grass green, mint)
- Blue-green (turquoise, teal)
- Blue (primary blue, slate)
- Blue-violet (periwinkle, iris)
- Violet (purple, eggplant)
- Red-violet (magenta, fuchsia)
- Red (primary red, brick)
- Red-orange (terra cotta, salmon)
- Orange (pumpkin, spice)
- Yellow-orange (mango, cheddar)

Hints:

- Avoid fabrics that are very light or very dark. They tend to read as white or black. Organize your fabrics by color. When in doubt, bring more fabric!
- In addition to the colors on the color wheel, bring some multicolor fabrics, in particular pieces where the colors look a bit mixed, swirled, or otherwise combined in a contemporary way (as opposed to a realistic floral, for example.)
- It's best if your multicolor fabrics contain *only a few colors*. Two-color prints are especially useful because as the "child," they suggest the logical "parents."
- Shot cottons are wonderful for this workshop; their different-colored warp and weft threads help to create the illusion of transparent color.
- Fabrics that are mottled, dappled, or "shot with light" are great. Batiks and hand-dyes have lots of potential, but any fabric that has the sensation of light

coming from behind or from above has possibilities. Having said that, *avoid batiks that look "muddy" and dense. Their colors are already so mixed that it's difficult to make them work in transparency.*

I provide the printed sheets for the mock-block exercises and a "fabric library," arranged by color, for you to use if you get stuck.