

## Color Camp: A One-day Retreat with Christine Barnes (workshop)

Do you stress when it's time to choose colors and fabrics for a new quilt? Do you wish you had a better "color sense"? You need to go on retreat to gain a new perspective. *You need to come to Color Camp!*

This no-sew workshop consists of cut-and-paste color studies, with lots of help from the teacher and group critique of every block. The first three mock-block exercises focus on value (light and dark), temperature (warm and cool), and intensity (bright and dull). These characteristics, more than color itself, determine the impact of a quilt. An overview of the color wheel and a final exercise expose students to this invaluable (and amazing) tool for quilters. It's lots of creative fun, and you'll leave "Color Camp" with fresh ideas for working with color.

### Color Camp (supply list)

- Rotary cutter, ruler, and mat
- Glue stick (make sure it's *fresh*)
- Fabric for exercises (see below)
- A color wheel, if you already have one. I provide a mini wheel for every student, or you can buy my color wheel in class (\$15).

To create the most successful color studies, you'll need a wide variety of fabrics in different colors, values, intensities, and patterns. Bring  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard or larger pieces; scraps are fine if they are at least 12" square.

*Bring beautiful fabric!* I do *not* want to hear anyone say, "I didn't have time, so I just grabbed some fabric from my stash." You can't learn about color using a handful of rag-tag fabrics! Spend the time to gather and buy a broad selection of great fabrics—you'll have much more fun and success with outstanding fabrics than with ordinary ones. Include both multi-colored prints and one-color, near-prints (tone-on-tone fabrics). You can also work with hand-dyes, ombrés, and batiks. Stripes, as you will soon discover, are magical fabrics, so bring some of them. Don't forget black-and-white fabrics. B&W fabrics that are mostly white with a bit of black look more modern. (But also bring some that are mostly black.)

It's very important to have a good mix of "values"—lights, mediums, and darks—in colors from all around the color wheel. Most of us have plenty of mediums and darks. Lights are harder to come by. Don't go *too* dark or *too* light, however; very dark fabrics often read as black, and very light fabrics read as almost white.

There are twelve colors on the Prang color wheel. Following is a list of these colors, with just 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.

- 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)

Organize your fabrics by color. She who brings the most and best-organized fabric wins!

I provide a “fabric library,” arranged by color, for you to use if you get stuck. *But you should still shop for and organize your own fabrics. When in doubt, bring more fabric!*