DESIGNING FROM NATURE

We begin the class with an introduction to the methods and techniques I have found successful in my pieced quilts. Then, using the images the students bring, we will discuss the translation of images from nature into pieced quilts. Each student will begin their own pieced design, using subjects and seaming techniques attractive to them. Individual time with each student will help them find options and solutions. Some students will work on developing a simple design and be able to finish the top of the quilt. Others may choose a more complex image, make the design and template pattern and finish the auditioning of fabric, but not complete the sewing process in class.

Suggested texts:

- Ruth B. McDowell's Piecing Workshop, C&T Publishing, 2007
- Ruth B. McDowell's Design Workshop, C&T Publishing, 2007
- A Fabric Journey, C&T 2005, will also be helpful for a look at piecing/fabric/border decisions

Level of skill: ADVANCED

If you haven't taken this class before, it is very helpful to **read the directions(!)** and practice with the blocks from Ruth B McDowell's Piecing Workshop, When Quilters Gather, or Pieced Vegetables books, or the Peaceable Bear pattern to introduce yourself to my freezer paper template and piecing methods.

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST:

Subjects from nature that inspire YOU. Real flowers, plants, leaves, shells, fruit, etc., or photographs or books of photographs or natural objects or landscapes (the larger, the better). Look carefully and in detail at possible subject matter, or, if you wish, prepare a large size careful freehand line drawing in advance. This may be a free hand drawing or traced from a photo (yours or with permission of the photographer). Please do not bring artwork (photo, drawing, quilt, or painting) by another artist with the intention of copying it unless you have obtained permission.

Suggested: to save time: **A very careful line drawing or tracing of your subject enlarged to the size at which you wish to work.**

If tracing a photo, enlarge the section of the photo that interests you on a copier to 11"x17" **first**, then carefully trace on clear plastic or tracing paper. Although I have pieced facial features once in my hobbit quilt, I do not recommend it.

Pencils, Ruler, Eraser, Pins, Paper, (bandage) Tape or narrow Masking tape (beige if possible)

A few large sheets of paper, Tracing paper, Paper scissors, Sewing kit, White-out, Colored pencils (not watercolor), Fabric scissors, Rotary cutter and pad, Large Ziploc bag, Extension cord, Freezer paper, **Extra or Ultra Fineline permanent marker (Sharpie brand)**

Sheet or fleece to pin up work in progress and to transport it home, Highlighter, Sewing machine *(unless you hand piece or plan to concentrate entirely on design and fabric selection)*