



# Serendipity

PATCHWORK & QUILTING



## Learn with Brenda Gael Smith

I offer the following workshops and programs:

- **Presentations** available in person and as live virtual programs via Zoom for up to 100 participants.
- **3-Hour Live Interactive Workshops:** optimised for learning on the Zoom platform for up to 20 students.
- **Longer Format Workshops:** designed for in-person classes or multi-segment live events.

Contact me for my availability and rates. I am open to tailoring a workshop or presentation that suits your needs.



## PRESENTATIONS 45-minute digital slide show + Q&A: Up to 100 participants via Zoom

### Driven to Abstraction

Brenda creates textile works made from a rich palette of her hand-dyed fabrics complemented by intensive stitching. Much of her work is inspired by the colour and patterns of the natural world with a focus on her surroundings at the "other" Copacabana in Australia and her New Zealand homeland. Using a process of abstraction, Brenda strives to capture the essence of her subjects in simplified form. Working improvisationally, she refines line, shape, colour and texture to evoke a sense of place, express an idea, highlight an issue or elicit an emotional response. Learn more about Brenda's inspiration and process in this colourful lecture.

### Quilts & Composition

Any quilt you make is an act of design. Whether it is traditional, contemporary, modern or an art quilt, you are creating a set of marks, shapes and colours that have a connection to each other. Drawing upon an inspiring collection of works from across the quilting spectrum, Brenda Gael Smith examines the elements and principles of design in action and highlights recurring types of quilt composition. Understanding composition provides a vocabulary for describing and evaluating quilt design and provides a foundation for developing your creative practice, whatever style of quilts you make.

### The Art of Finishing

Finishing and sharing work is a valuable way of maintaining creative momentum. Brenda shares tips and tricks to enhance the presentation of YOUR quilts and textile art including a review of artful finishing techniques and a fresh look at hanging sleeves and label-making.

### Jurying & Judging Art Quilts: Original Design

When it comes to jurying and judging art quilts, the focus should be on evaluating the works as art. Drawing upon 15+ years in exhibition administration, Brenda's presentation provides a framework for approaching jurying and judging assignments with thought-provoking case studies on the issue of original design. This presentation is primarily designed for exhibition organisers and judging education programs but can be tailored for art quilting groups.

### The Art of Curating

The art of curating brings three distinct imperatives: to select; to organise; and to look after items in an exhibition. Drawing upon more than 15 years' experience in exhibition administration, including several popular international touring exhibits, independent curator Brenda Gael Smith reflects on the highlights and challenges of these imperatives providing insights and takeaway tips for both artists and exhibition organisers.

### Copyright & Textile Creatives in the 21st Century

This introductory lecture covers copyright fundamentals for the 21st century creative in Australia. What is copyright? what does it apply to? how long does it last? what are the exceptions? enforcement and so on. The lecture also addresses some frequently asked questions and common issues such as quilt show photography, incorporating copyright material into your quilts and proper use of patterns.

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Brenda Gael Smith Tel: +61 412 530 190  
brenda@serendipitypatchwork.com.au  
www.serendipitypatchwork.com.au

## 3-HOUR WORKSHOPS

All workshops have been specifically developed for learning via Zoom and focus on a different freeform piecing technique. I will guide you step-by-step through colour, construction and composition to encourage creative momentum. The classes are stand-alone, or you can pick and choose a series for your group. A recording is also available for 30 days afterwards



### **Zig Zag Pizzazz (available after April 2025)**

Create energetic designs with flair and style using a variety of freeform piecing techniques exploring zig zag lines and shapes.



### **Logs & Ladders: Building with Improvisation**

Build your own composition with improvisational log cabin and/or ladder units. Learn freeform cutting without rulers and how to join irregular blocks. Explore the design principles of repetition and variation. Develop scrap management strategies for future projects.



### **Line Dancing**

In this introductory workshop, you will learn two versatile methods of piecing expressive fine lines and undertake improvisational design exercises to create small compositions.



### **Geometricks**

Tips and tricks for creating geometric shapes with freeform piecing: triangles, quadrilaterals and hexagons. Explore the design possibility of repeating motifs and learn how to join irregular shaped blocks.



### **FUNDamentally Circles**

Focus on the core technique of freeform piecing circular designs without pins and templates. It's liberating and it's FUN. After some skill-building exercises, students will start on their own compositions with confidence.



### **Beyond FUNDamentally Circles**

goes deeper into the design possibilities of half circles and curvilinear shapes and is designed for graduates of the first FUNDamentally Circles workshop.



### **The X Factor**

Apply the X factor to a layer cake of your favourite fabric range to create cross design projects. Discover the liberation of free cutting and curved piecing techniques. No rulers, no templates! Also suitable for solids and scrap-busting.



### **Strip Ease**

Learn an effective, improvisational strip-piecing technique to create new "fabrics" layer by layer and explore design possibilities for incorporating these strip sets into your own compositions.

## LONGER FORMAT WORKSHOPS

In addition to the 3-hour workshops, I offer the following longer format, in-depth workshops for both in-person and virtual events. I can tailor content and timing for your needs.



### Logs & Ladders: Building with Improvisation\*

Build your own composition with improvisational units - log cabins, ladders and more. Learn freeform cutting without rulers or templates; how to join irregular blocks; and the effective use of positive and negative space. Explore the design principles of repetition and variation.



### Improvisation Plus!

Discover the fun of improvisationally piecing geometric and linear units. Put them altogether in a striking mega-9 patch with personality plus! Learn freeform cutting and how to join irregular blocks. Explore the design principles of repetition and variation.

### Abstraction in Action

Create pieced abstract compositions drawn from reality. Working from a personal source of inspiration found in nature or place, learn the basics of abstraction through observation, reflection, colour, line, shape and repetition.



### Lines of Beauty

Explore the expressive qualities of finely pieced lines. This workshop includes a series of design exercises, covering both improvisational and intentional freeform machine piecing techniques, with a view to completing small compositions and building skills and confidence for larger work.



### Creating with Felt

Felt is a luscious, soft and pliable fabric available in an array of colours.

Learn how to create bold, graphic designs in acrylic and wool blend felt using machine applique, butting and inlay techniques.



### Bound to Please

Improve your quilts instantly!

This workshop covers a range of quilt finishing techniques from the classic continuous binding (without bulges!) to the ever useful escape hatch; the artful facing finish to informal satin stitch edging & more.

### Strata Various

Make beautiful music in fabric and colour.

First create your unique strata in your favourite colours. Then mix it up with cutting, slashing, insertions and other deconstruction and improvisational techniques.



### Stacks of Improvisation\*

Improvise with fabric stacks, freehand cutting and pinless curved piecing. Imagine the possibilities! These colour and design exercises will set you on the path of creative self-expression in contemporary quilting and can be translated to larger works.



### Riffing with Repetition

Explore the power of repetition to create unity and rhythm in abstract design using YOUR preferred techniques.

This **design** workshop is for students looking to stretch their creative muscles.



### Circular Explorations

Learn versatile techniques for freeform cutting and piecing circles and other curvilinear shapes to create your own dynamic compositions. Explore the design possibilities of circles – fractured, quartered and more Deconstruct a classic shape into something new and individually expressive.