

There is no kit fee for the Koos class. Students bring their own fabrics. Info below should give some help in choosing fabrics. Photos attached show some project ideas, details and fabric choices. Feel free to use any photos from the Photo Gallery on my website as well.

FABRIC COLLAGE A LA KOOS WITH MARLA KAZELL

Explore the fabric collage techniques used by designer Koos van den Akker and learn to combine a variety of fabrics and fibers into a work of art. A frequent visitor to Koos' workroom and boutique in New York, Marla will show you his collage techniques including fabric slicing, couching, applique, origami buttonholes and using bias tape to create designs and finish edges. Sample garments will show you a variety of design ideas and fabric combinations. Combine silk, rayon, cotton, wool and synthetics and learn how to blend colors, textures, prints, plaids and stripes. Practice the techniques and create your one-of-a-kind collage piece.

For inspiration, go to marlakazell.com and click on the Photo Gallery where you will find fabric collage jackets and fabric and collage ideas.

To practice the techniques in class, students may start by collaging a piece of fabric big enough to make a tote bag, pillow or apron. It's a good way to practice creating a design and trying the techniques without committing to a garment. Patterns for a simple tote bag and butcher-style apron will be available for students to use. For the more adventurous and those who already have design ideas, creating a piece of a garment, a jacket back, for example, is a good project. They can use any pattern – simple is best. I suggest Saf-T-Pockets Rochelle's Reversible jacket as a perfect base to work on.

SUPPLY LIST

Fabric for base - large enough to cut out a pattern piece - approximately 36" square should be big enough for most class projects the wrong side of this fabric will be covered by your collage, the right side becomes the "lining" or "reverse" side of the collage prints or textures work best, quilting weight is fine, but you could also consider wool, linen, heavier cotton or a lighter weight home dec fabric.

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SEE INFO BELOW FOR HELP IN CHOOSING FABRICS

4 - 6 more fabrics for collage 1/8 - 1/2 yard each or scrap pieces

1 or 2 fabrics for bias tape - 1/4 - 1 yard each

Thread - choose colors that blend into your base fabric and bias tape fabrics

Sewing machine and accessories

Basic sewing supplies including: shears, pins, chalk marker, straight ruler with a bias line or triangle ruler with 45 degree angle

Optional Supplies

spray adhesive (Sulky KK 2000)

newspaper (to protect fabric when using spray adhesive)

Steam-A-Seam or other fusible web for applique

yarn, narrow ribbon or trims for couching

bias tape makers - 1/4", 1/2", 3/4" 1"

Clover Slash Cutter

book - Koos Couture Collage: Inspiration and Techniques by Linda Chang

Teufel

BOOKS, BIAS TAPE MAKERS AND SLASH CUTTERS ALONG WITH OTHER NOTIONS AND TOOLS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE WORKSHOP.

FABRIC CHOICES

Part of the magic of designer Koos van den Akker's fabric collage is the combination of fabrics. Prints, stripes, plaids and textures- often in "clashing" colors come together in marvelous combinations.

Where do you start?

Choose a piece of fabric that inspires you and gives you a direction. Then collect fabrics that harmonize and blend - they don't have to match exactly. Be adventurous! One common color in two very different prints can work together in a collage. Cut stripes and plaids on the bias or use only one motif of a print. Try different scales of florals, prints, plaids and stripes. Choose fabrics with texture and pattern over solids - they blend together better. Silk chiffon and rayon batik are very effective for the slicing technique.

Cottons are an easy choice for your first collage project. But don't hesitate to combine any other fabrics - rayon, silk, wool, linen and synthetics into the same project if the colors or patterns work for you.

Blending the fabrics together are bias tapes that outline the collage design. These can be solid or patterned. Small scale stripes, checks or prints work well. Choose colors that blend with your fabrics or tie together a rainbow of colors with black and white. Natural fiber fabrics that hold a crease well are best - try 100% cotton or silk douppionni plaids or stripes.