

Sunday 7 April 2019

Happy Villages inspired by Karen Echmeier - Marianne Drawater

Venue: Lower Hardres Village Hall CT4 5NP

Time: 10-4

Requirements

For inspiration visit the Student Gallery at www.kareneckmeier.com The workshop will focus on the techniques of Karen Eckmeier from her book "Happy Villages". Participants can use her inspirational ideas to create their own picture of an imaginary happy place or may prefer to produce a small work of art using a real reference that makes them happy, perhaps from a photograph, using her techniques and a little artistic licence. It will be fiddly but fun and bounded only by your imagination so bright and beautiful or cool and calm, the choice is yours so choose your fabric accordingly. We'll aim for a piece about A4 in size for this workshop, though the adventurous could go larger. Save all your tiny pieces of fabric for roofs, windows, doors and steps which can be as small as 1/8" x 1/2"!

Materials:

- A4 size pieces:
 - backing such as calico,
 - wadding (thin rather than thick polyester),
 - organza, tulle or similar remembering the colour chosen will affect the finished look of your picture ie white will brighten, blue will give twilight effect etc
- Piece of sky and/or water fabric if required
- Main buildings can be cut from 6 ½" squares using the template I'll provide, and I suggest you will need 5 to 6 such squares AND/OR you can use smaller bits of fabric from your stash
- Fabrics for buildings, roofs, windows, doors, trees/plants, bridges, steps - plain or patterned but not too small a pattern or it will look too busy (remembering pieces will be tiny eg windows are maximum ¾" squares and stairs/steps 1/8" by ½" to 1")
- 2 ½" strip for co-ordinating or contrasting binding if desired – I prefer to frame mine so they are not bound
- Toning or contrasting threads, variegated are useful

Tools:

Glue to just keep tiny bits of fabric in place – Pritt stick type works fine

Cocktail stick to help apply glue

Small sharp scissors

Tweezers are useful

Free motion sewing machine with darning/embroidery foot

Extension lead

Pins and hair slides to hold things in place

Flat surface on which to build your picture eg cutting mat so you can move it easily!

Lunch