Improv Stripes

Overview

Striped patterning has long been a defining element in modern art and design, particularly within the Bauhaus movement. In this workshop, we'll explore how stripes function in quilt design — from structured stripe sets to improv compositions.

Working exclusively with solid fabrics, students will construct striped designs using an improv approach. Rather than starting with a preset pattern, design decisions are made throughout the process. The workshop provides structure and guidance in developing a color palette, understanding value and contrast, constructing stripe-based units, and building a larger composition.

Topics covered include:

- Creating an effective color palette
- Using value and contrast to strengthen striped designs
- Constructing stripe sets and combining units
- Evaluating and refining composition

Students will gain practical tools for using stripes with clarity and intention in their quilt work.

Suitable for confident beginners through advanced quilters.

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Supply List

- Solid fabric* (see note below)
- Rotary cutter with a new, sharp blade
- Gridded cutting mat (large enough to cut yardage preferred)
- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies (scissors, seam ripper, thread, rulers)
- Portable design wall**

Fabric Requirements

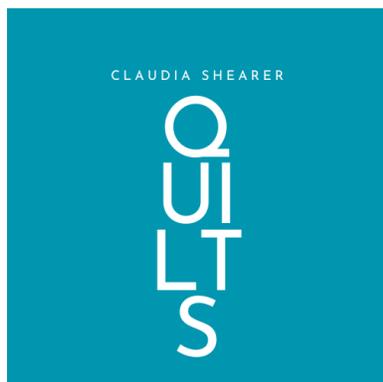Bring a wide assortment of **solid fabric WOF yardage** (no fat quarters or scraps).

- Fabrics must be true solids — no batiks, blenders, or printed textures (e.g., grunge).
- Include a range of values from light to dark.
- Bring both saturated hues and muted tones for contrast.
- If you pre-plan a palette, also bring additional fabrics outside that plan to allow for adjustments during the workshop.
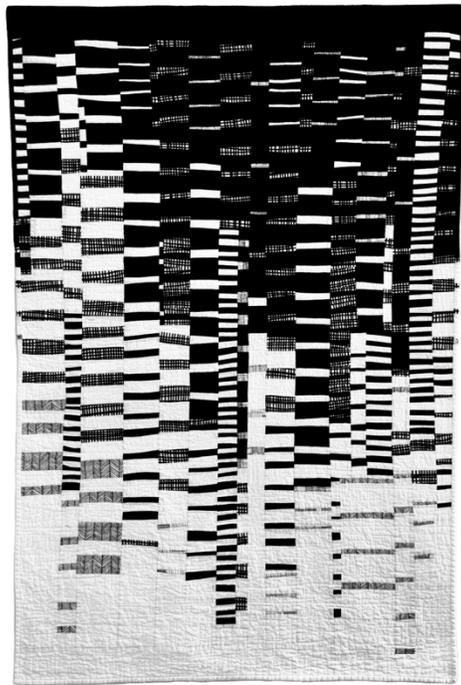

Design Wall

A portable design wall is required for evaluating compositions.

- Fleece or batting secured to a surface with painter's tape can work if needed.
- A foam board covered with batting and secured with spray adhesive is an effective option.

Design walls will be used throughout the workshop to review and refine layouts.

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