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Code 306

Contemp Improv: Lines, Spots and Ladders

***Tutor: Alicia Merrett***

Improvisational patchwork is a very satisfying way of working: no rulers, and few rules. In this workshop we will focus particularly on techniques of freehand cutting and fine line piecing. Participants will construct their own small improvisational top, playing with line, shape and colour. The piece can then be quilted using a combination of straight lines and the decorative pattern stitches of the sewing machine. It will have to be finished at home.

One day workshop

**Please bring with you:**

***Materials:***

**Fabrics:** a small selection of cottons in a variety of colours, that combine and contrast nicely with each other. Cotton fabrics in solid and tone-on-tone colours (such as Moda), batiks and hand-dyed fabrics, are all good. Pieces do not have to be big.

**Background fabric**: one fat quarter in either a light or a dark colour.

**Batting/wadding:** cotton is best; a piece about 20” square (50 cm)

**Backing fabric** – a piece about the size of a fat quarter.

**Machine piecing thread:** in a neutral colour.

**Machine quilting/embroidery threads -** in a variety of colours which both match and contrast with your fabrics.

***Tools:***

**Rotary cutter** with very sharp blade.

**Cutting mat.**

**Small pair of scissors.**

**Pins**

**Safety pins**

**Quilters’ ruler** (optional – to be used only for straightening the edges)

**Some sheets of plain paper; pencil, eraser, sharpener.**

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