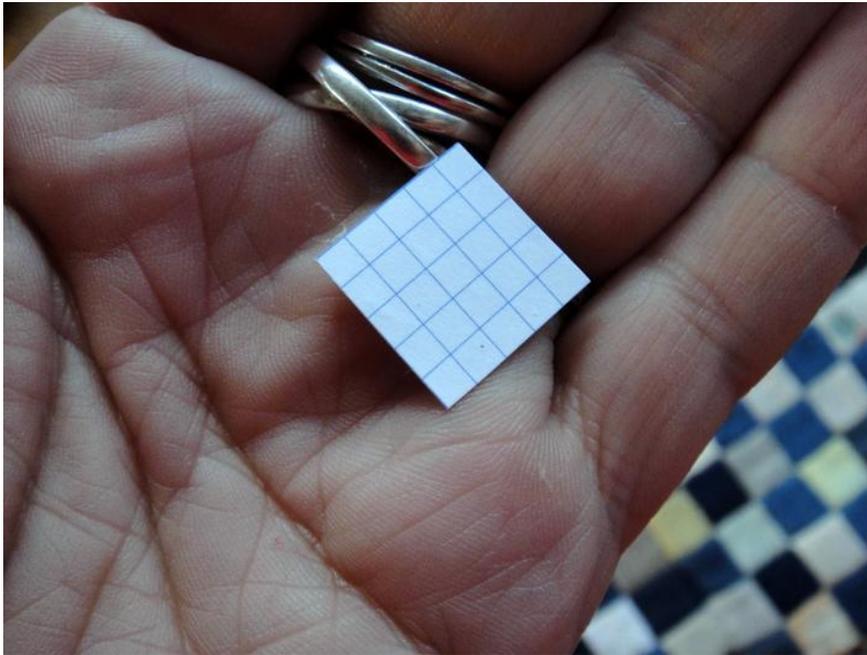


Cloth to Cloth workshop Copyright © 2010 jude hill
For the love of fabric...



Back to square one Patchwork quilting by nature involves combining different elements, sometimes random and unlikely and seemingly unrelated...into a useful and beautiful whole. It is something that holds together through purpose and creative expression. Simply born out of need and invention, it expresses functionality and resourcefulness which personalizes its beauty.



Of course patchwork, in its most basic form is about also squares...little boxes...those adorable and endlessly useful building blocks...an expression of a simple logic...child's play and mathematics rolled up into a neat little package. You can't go wrong with squares. They always fit together which makes them so much fun to play with. They are stress free and filled with possibility. You can make them into a simple game like a checkerboard or you can get crazy and expand the idea into all

kinds of designs. Who doesn't love to doodle on graph paper? After all those circles I played with last year, I thought what if I play with this square thing for a change?

The spirit of cloth



for me...even more than design.... the quilt is about fabric. I have always been intrigued by the nature of cloth. The way it feels and wears, the way it holds together year after year. The way it drapes, its flexibility...how you can scrunch it up and hold it, how you can wrap it around you and let it hold you. Way back when I was a weaver, I often looked at cloth under a magnifier, an opportunity to look closer and to learn about cloth's structure. On my journey I moved back and forth between weaving and quilting and I gradually came to feel a

strong relationship between the woven aspect of fabric and sewing. In the back of my mind I often asked what if I could express my love of these two things in one technique. How could I let the fabric express itself and speak out in a way that could be more noticeable? How could I express the nature of cloth as a quilt?



patchwork without seams So... I asked myself, what if I use the fabric itself like thread...torn into strips? What if I weave it together like a fabric is woven, would I not still be making a cloth from scraps in the tradition of quilting? And wouldn't I be making a cloth that would hold together in the same fashion as fabric woven from thread does? Well the answer was yes. And beyond that I had discovered an easy and very green way of making a patchwork without seams, without extra thread, quicker than on a machine or by hand piecing.

No electricity. No basting. A simple way to recycle and transform fabric I might not even like in its other form. Something so simple a child could do it. The tearing always yields a straight line. (And it release anxiety too!) Weaving works in straight lines and always yields a right angle. Weaving fabric makes perfect squares, perfect patchwork... and a fabulously new and primitive texture. Patchwork redefined



The best of both worlds quilt weaving as I call it is my new focus. I have seen it done here and there before but not in this context. It has simply rearranged my vision of how to create cloth and given me new eyes. I remember childhood fun with looped potholders and the paper weavings we did in arts and crafts. I remember surprises in color and pattern and little colored squares dancing in my head. This new cloth speak as weaving and quilting combined

and might appeal to many as a cloth to inspire artistic expression



Weaving a foundation... the resulting woven patchwork grid is such a wonderful canvas to work on, like cloth graph paper, an instant 2 layer ground, without stitching a stitch. This technique can be done ragged edge as well as not. The web holds together and actually forms 2 layers at once, eliminating the need for batting and producing a flexible cloth that is very antique in feel. It can be backed or held together with simple quilting or embellishment. Just by

decorating each little box with patch or stitch I was able to start to make designs, and I look forward to more what-iffing as I try to expand on this concept. I found later it was easy to hand or machine stitch all the way around the edge to hold it from slipping while embellishing but even that is not necessary if you are working small. I have found a new path. I am happy and I am saying to myself, it's about time. It's about time.