

Linda  
Sweek  
Designs

Sew & Sew Retreats  
and creative textile workshops

## Fiber Art Class: Crazy Quilting

Full-day. Students need a sewing machine.



Figure 1: Pieced & Sewn to Create Patchwork Block



Figure 2: Embroidered & Embellished Block

### LINDA SWECK

Linda Sweek Designs – Owner / Fiber & Mixed Media Artist

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# Crazy Quilting – Creating a Block to Embroider & Embellish

## An All Day Workshop

Crazy quilts became popular in the late 1800s, likely due to the English embroidery and Japanese art that was displayed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. American audiences were drawn to Japanese silk-screening and the stitches used in English embroidery. Similar aesthetics began to show up on patchwork quilts, including unique patterns and stitching that resembled spider webs and fans. This became known as Crazy Quilts.

Crazy Quilting as a textile art is extremely creative and free-flowing. In this workshop, you will learn about embroidery, embellishments and the “crazy quilting” itself. Crazy quilting is a patchwork technique where random shaped fabric pieces are stitched to a foundation fabric. Everyone will piece and sew together one block. Then we will add embroidery and embellishments to the block. There is an endless variety of ways to embroider. Ribbon, lace, braids, buttons, beads and charms will be added for dimension and beauty to the crazy quilt block.



## Supplies to Bring

- 2 Scissors – large for cutting fabric & small for embroidery
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Small embroidery hoops – 4”/ 6” (I often use a 4, 6 and 8 inch; you may also want to bring one of each)
- Sewing machine
- Fabrics
  - 1 piece of white cotton or muslin – enough to cut out a 12”x12” square, plus seam allowances
  - Cotton – to create the “patchwork”
    - I suggest about eight different fabrics that complement each other. Maybe a collection of fat quarters or solids with a similar color depth, i.e., jewel-tones or pastels
    - I recommend plain fabrics or those with a small print
    - Note: Fabrics can be pre-washed. This is especially important if you mix scraps with new fabrics.
- 8 Skeins of different colored **embroidery floss** to coordinate with the eight fabrics
- 8 Skeins of Pearl Cotton – **Size 3 or 5** in various colors to coordinate with fabrics
- Thread for machine sewing and bobbin
- Embellishments, i.e., buttons, ribbons, lace, beads, charms, doilies, hankies, etc.
- Needle Threader
- **Needles: 1) Embroidery, 2) Beading and 3) Chenille – need all!** These photos show the packs I like to buy because they have multiple sizes for each type of needle.

## Time

**8 Hours** - approx. 3 hours to create block and 5 hours to embroider the block (with lunch 9 hours)

## Class Minimum/Maximum\*

3/12

## Fee

\$75 per attendee

# Linda Sweek

Fiber & Mixed Media Artist

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After a successful 25-year career in marketing, public relations and communications leadership roles, Linda Sweek has had the good fortune of pursuing her passion of fiber and mixed media art and starting her own business – **Linda Sweek Designs**. Besides fiber and mixed media artistry, Sweek teaches workshops and is the founder and host of **Sew & Sew Retreats**.

Sweek started to embroider at the age of eight – to her it was like painting a canvas. Additionally, her grandmother, who was an artist, took her to art museums and galleries for instruction, and welcomed Sweek into her studio to work with clay, pastels and paints. Applying this knowledge of studio art, Sweek’s **preferred medium became fiber**.

Sweek has **served on the Board of Directors at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilt & Fiber Arts (WMQFA)**; is a member of Midwest Fiber Arts Trail-Cedarburg Spur; the Milwaukee Art Quilters (MArQ); and the Surface Design Association. She has been commissioned to create fiber art for various organizations. Sweek teaches fiber art workshops at various venues including the WMQFA and her own retreats.

She has been privileged to **exhibit her work in several juried art shows** including the International Quilt Festival Houston 2021, the 2018 AQS Quilt Week® Contest in Grand Rapids, Michigan; 2019, 2017 and 2015 Alverno College Alumni Art Exhibit, Milwaukee; “Second Fiber Arts Biennale: Wisconsin State of the Art” 2015 at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts (WMQFA); the Grace Fine Arts Festival, Milwaukee; and Milwaukee Third Ward Gallery Night’s. **Awards received** include 2018 AQS 1st Place for The Ultimate Guild Challenge - SUPPORTING WORDS, Milwaukee Art Quilters; Martha Stewart American Made 2014 Award Nominee; Best of Houzz - 2014 Badge Award Winner; and multiple Wisconsin State Fair first, second and third place ribbons in textile categories.

Sweek has a bachelor’s degree in professional communications with honors and a minor in liberal arts from Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She also **studied textile and folk art** in the U.S., Mexico and Europe, and has explored art at 24 museums from Paris to Florence, Vienna to London, Chicago to Honolulu, New York to Mexico City and beyond.