

# PenWAG Rag

Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo

Co-Presidents



## Presidents' Thoughts. . . .

This is a real easy one, dear friends, I have absolutely nothing to say this month except I am so needing for all of us to be able to get together in real time !

I have had both my vaccines (so far it's the only perk I noticed for being in my 80s except, of course, for the fact that I'm still above the ground rather than below it ). I know some of you have had or are scheduled for your second shot and it looks as though all will soon be eligible if supplies arrive in a timely manner.

Then of course there's finding out when the Campbell community center will reopen and what their requirements will be. The Board is in contact with them about this.

So, until that happy day, I'm spending time in the workroom – still not into garments but enjoying dipping my toes into the whole textile art thing. I've been inspired by Marcia with her delightful watercolor work and by Jackie Snell perfecting her calligraphy, so I'm into small (really small) paper and felt pen pieces. It's all fun and no pressure.

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Until next month,  
stay well,  
get your vaccine  
and enjoy creating  
**anything!**

Leilani

### New Members:

- Barbara Capron
- Agnes De Lucchi of Agz Ragz
- Kathleen Goldsmith
- Kay Kahn
- Dorothy Yuki
- April Sproule of Sproule Studios
- Cynthia Blair Seattle, WA 98125
- Joan Knight of Joan Knight Designs
- PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ
- Judith James
- Sharon Page Ritchie
- Karen Hiatt

April 10, 2021  
PenWAG Program  
11:00 – 12:30 via Zoom

April Sproule  
Make Your Mark With Textiles



April's work is all about color, texture, and the practice of enhancing textiles in any way possible.



April 10, 2021  
PenWAG Workshop  
2:00 – 5:00 via Zoom

April Sproule  
Block Printing  
on Fabric Possibilities



You will learn to create and transfer designs, carve a block, and print your own fabric using water-based, washable, permanent textile inks.

[www.sproulestudies.com](http://www.sproulestudies.com)

# April Workshop

## Block Printing on Fabric

a workshop with

*April Sproule*

SPROULE STUDIOS



### Supply List for Students

Email: [aprilsp@sproulestudios.com](mailto:aprilsp@sproulestudios.com)

Phone: (707) 725-9124

Block printing on fabric is a perfect way to create beautiful handmade items with your own personal flair. This is a very easy technique that lends itself well to very simple and also more ornate designs.

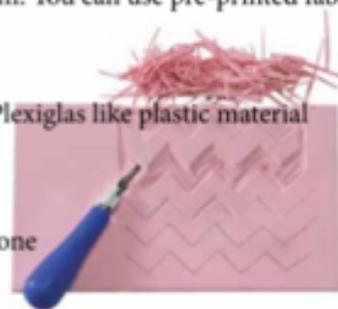
You will learn to carve your own block and print your own fabric with a design of your choosing. Designs will be provided for your selection, but you are welcome to use an original design of your own as well. No experience is required, but it helps to look online for inspiration to find ideas that appeal to you.

- Rubber stamp carving material for 2-3 stamps : Speedball 91)  
(1) Speedy Carve (pink), 6" x 12" , or Blick Ready cut from Dick Blick 8" x 10"
- Block carving tools: Speedball Linoleum Cutting Tool
- Roller/ Brayer: foam roller, not a hard plastic one
- Fabric Paint: Versatex Screen Printing Inks by Jacquard, or Speedball Fabric Screen Printing Inks, in one or two colors



**Note: Do not buy Speedball Fabric Block Printing Ink**

- Optional: fabric markers (washable) if you want to add addi-
- Fabric to print on: natural fiber, prewashed, 1/2 yard minimum. You can use pre-printed fabric if the design is not too busy.
- Something smooth to roll your ink out on:
  - 8" x 10" minimum size, it can be a piece of glass, metal or Plexiglas like plastic material
- Scraps of fabric and or scratch paper to practice on
- Ruler, and an Xacto knife for cutting your blocks
- Regular pencil, black Ultra-Fine Point Sharpie, and a thicker one
- Tweezers, and a small stiff paint brush
- Designs will be provided for you to use in class, but you are welcome to use your own design



Note: For your convenience, I have set up a Course Materials page on the Dick Blick website. Please read on to the next page to clarify exactly what you need from them.

# April Workshop, ctd.

If ordering from Dick Blick or shopping at one of their retail stores, I have listed options according to pricing and availability.

You will only need:

- One or the other of the Printing/Carving Blocks (the Blick Readycut are my favorite)
- One of the Brayers
  - the Speedball Brayer with a foam roller works best, but they only have it listed in the Kit with 4 rollers.
  - if you have a Speedball brayer handle already, just get the foam replacement roller
  - the Rollrite brayer works fine, but is not my first choice.

Current items and pricing: 1-17-21

If you are not able to find the items at your local art supply store, this is the list I set up for you on Dick Blick. I am not an affiliate.

You will be emailed a link to the Block Printing on Fabric Supply List on their site.

Item ID	Item Description	Price	Priority	Qty
Buy				
40422-0810	Blick Readycut Printing Blocks - 8" x 10"	\$7.16	Blick	
60283-1612	Speedball Speedy Carve Block - 6" x 12"	\$14.65	BLICK	
40112-0003	Speedball Pop-In Brayer Foam Replacement Roller	\$7.02	BLICK	
40112-1009	Speedball Pop-In Brayer Kit with 4 Rollers	\$33.65	BLICK	
40203-1009	Speedball Lino Set No. 1	\$10.21	BLICK	
43230-2025	Speedball Water-Base Textile Screen Printing Ink - Black, 8 oz	\$8.52	BLICK	
40102-1004	Rollrite Foam Brayer - 4"			

## **Resources for Supplies**

Local art Supply Stores  
Michael's  
Dick Blick, online: [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

## **Design Resources for Block Ideas:** April's Pinterest Boards

<https://www.pinterest.com/aprilsproule/block-printing/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/aprilsproule/prints-and-design/>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My contact info is on the header of the first page.

*April Sproule*

**May 8, Program, Zoom 11:00 - 12:30**  
**Diane Ericson, Making a Life by Hand**



**MAKING a Meaningful Life- How to be ready?**

**Re-tooling our creativity can open the way: Join me to share ideas, strategies and inspiration for the the journey.**

**MAKING a Meaningful Life** Aging with a creative taproot and harvesting the gifts that continue unfolding in front of us, IS life offering itself to us. How to be ready? Re-tooling our creativity can open the way: Join me to share ideas, strategies and inspiration for the the journey.

**Title: Making a Life by Hand**

Description: Living my life rooted in creativity has never been more tested than in my recent past. Making meaning has always been what I require no matter what is in my hands. Making to understand the world. Making to grow my experience and skills and find balance is what my life is always about. The deeper I reach, the richer my life is. Having a diverse toolbox of making skills allows me to create choices that speak to what I need and want to share in the moment: Sometimes a more structured material like wood...sometimes textile...each calling me home in a unique voice. The gift of creativity is a bridge I am passionate to make in teaching and sharing with others. I look forward to sharing my process and work with you. Everything coming and going...life is always in motion...feeling change in me now reminds me there is always magic unfolding in what is next. I am awake, happy ...and always grateful. Diane

[The Ultimate List of Independent Online Fabric Stores!! | Closet Core Patterns](#)



### **Artist bio**

**Caroline Nixon** is a textile artist. She works with natural dyes and botanical contact printing ( ecoprinting) to produce wearable art, wall art and home textiles. Working from her garden studio in long Compton, she captures the beauty of nature using the pigments and imprints of the leaves themselves – no synthetic ink, dyes or silk screens are involved. Hand and free machine stitch are used for embellishment, producing complex patterned cloth. The naturally occurring colours are soft and harmonious, and the process is non polluting and respectful of the environment.

The plants and dyes come from sustainable sources - many are grown in her own garden. The smallest change in plant species, climatic conditions or water source can produce marked variations in the prints, meaning every item is unique. The textiles used are natural fibres, organically produced and ethically sourced wherever possible. Vintage textiles are also upcycled, giving them a new lease of life. Much of the linen and lace is sourced from French brocantes and local charity shops. The cooking pots used for processing are also recycled - copper preserving pans, cast iron laundry pots, aluminium cooking pots. All these techniques are the antithesis of today's 'throwaway' society

Link to a recent interview with Caroline

<https://www.textileartist.org/caroline-nixon-stitching-into-botanical-magic>

### **Website**

<http://www.handmadetextilesbycaroline.co.uk>

**Caroline Nixon: social media**

<https://www.facebook.com/caroline.nixon.547/>

<https://www.instagram.com/handmadecaroline/>

**Feedback from my most recent online course**

Thank you so very much Croline Your course has filled in a lot of gaps and inspired me to continue learning about the plethora of plants around me. Your teachings filled my head with ideas and my heart with joy for the art of botanical printing! **Monika Bingen-Hara**

Thank you seems insufficient. Your ability to inspire, to teach and to encourage is wonderful. This course is undoubtedly the best thing I could have done to re-boot my little grey cells and re-set my skills. **Susan**

Thanks also to the engaging comments & discussions from & between the other participants. It's been a fantastic learning opportunity. I love the feeling of being connected to so many beautiful people. This excellent class offers so much to both the beginning and more experienced student. **Kiran**

Thank you Caroline for a very informative and educational course. Must for every beginner !! Last two years I have self taught about eco printing from reading and observing others. You have provided true 'foundation' where things make sense now ! The purpose behind doing certain techniques ! Amazing way how to roll scarf to get less wrinkles to achieve spectacular outcomes !! Never knew or seen or heard before !!! So thanks again from bottom of my heart for your support, patience and understanding towards your pupils **Sharon**

I've been following the class and wanted to tell you that it's by far the best class I've seen. I love how you're interacting with everyone, helping each person learn from their results. **Jacqui**

Thank you Caroline I learnt a lot about iron and how to get good prints. I have enjoyed the tips and tricks and hope to be able to do another course about colour and mordants with you soon. Thanks for being such a generous teacher **Evelyn**

Thank you SO much. You really are a wonderful teacher. So patient, so thorough, so kind. Wonderful 'food' for thought!



**Sunday, June 13,  
Zoom Worksop  
1.5 hours pre-recorded\*  
10:00 - 11:30 live  
Botanical Print  
With Caroline Nixon**

\*pre-recorded materials  
available 1 week in advance

**Plan NOW for the giant SHOW 'N TELL on JULY 10**



## March General Meeting

Claire De Lucchi

-Meeting was started at 11:00 via Zoom Webinar by **Leilani Bennet**, Co-president. Roughly 46 attendees were online.

-**Andrew Trembley**, Historian, reminded members about Zoom controls and using chat for questions.

-**Kevin Roche**, Webmaster, spoke about the website improvements and reminded attendees to renew membership since the "grace period" during which lapsed members would still continue to get members-only communications would be ending at the end of February. There are Angel Fund resources for members who are unable to afford the full renewal amount.

-**Lenore Kelly**, Newsletter/Publicity, is accepting newsletter articles, photos and other member interest items via email from members.

-**Claire De Lucchi**, Secretary, invited members to the "Monday Muse" Zoom meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. It is a free sharing of completed projects, solicitation of ideas to overcome creative blocks, random joyful offerings and a chance to get feedback or help from others in the way of resource sharing or opinions. Email reminder with Zoom link sent a few days prior.

**Michelle Paganini**, Programs, described March (**Suzi Klick**), April (**April Sproule**), May (**Diane Erickson**) and June (**Caroline Nixon**) programs. July will be another fabulous member showcase.

Michelle then introduced artist, entrepreneur, and world traveler Dorothy Yuki who enthralled members and guests about her creative journey through life thus far..

The zoom Webinar ended at approximately 12:45 pm and was recorded to be available to members online at a location TBD.

Marcia sent these links for your amusement. I laughed until I had tears in my eyes.. And there's more if you search.

[Jeanne Robertson "Don't send a man to the grocery store!" - YouTube](#)

[JEANNE ROBERTSON VIDEO! Don't Bungee Jump Naked! - YouTube](#)

## Monday Muse and the 5 Challenges of 2021

Claire de Lucchi

Along with the fickleness of our individual muse(s) during the last year, we have all struggled with creating and even with having the energy to care to create! Many are playing with different media or not working on wearables at all! With working from home and worry about our loved ones near and far and the cooped up nature of sheltering in place, the lines are fuzzy between working and living and playing.. Are we working to live or living to work and is plerking a' la *Rosemary Eichorn* even in our vocabulary (i.e., to play/work in our creative spaces)? Dare we play?

So, we give you 5 Challenge options for 2021, due for **July Show & Tell** or the **December year end presentation**. *Judi Seip* has again volunteered to collate the narrated PowerPoint presentation, but you will supply the narration. You can send your photos to [judi@penwag.org](mailto:judi@penwag.org)

*We call this year's 5 challenge options "Alphabet Soup":*

- **A is for Artist inspiration** - did one of our recent artists provide a spark which got you fired up? *Laura Murray, Dorothy Yuki, Suzi Click*, or any of the upcoming 2021 roster...
- **B is for Bought it during the pandemic** and now finally transformed it into something fun to share...
- **C is for a Class project** or technique you learned at PenWAG or online and you made something of it!
- **D is for a Deferred challenge** from any of the last few years which you finally unearthed and finished.
- **F is for Finishing a UFO** of any type, provenance or vintage!

Although A, B, C, D and F look like letter grades, it is merely a coincidence! If you share any challenge result with the rest of us, you definitely have earned a spot on the PenWAG stage for a few moments of celebration and some oohs and ahs!

**For sale: *Women's Size 18 hanging collapsible shoulder dress form with legs. Rolling cast iron stand and chrome pole / hook. Removable arm***

***Anna is*** Ronda Chaney's student in Fashion Design and Merchandising, Canada College. Anna self-drafted her lovely sheath dress

