

It's fun to work with fabric collections but if you want to create more unique and personal artworks choose fabrics and colors on your own.

Create a project collection When starting a new project start collecting for it with the color, fabric, trims etc that you most want to include. Working from there begin adding all possible choices especially including some out of left field. The starting point may be the decoration of a room or a gift recipients favorite colors.

Textiles inspire my sculptures and are often used in a symbolic way to add layers of meaning to my work.

Buy what you Love

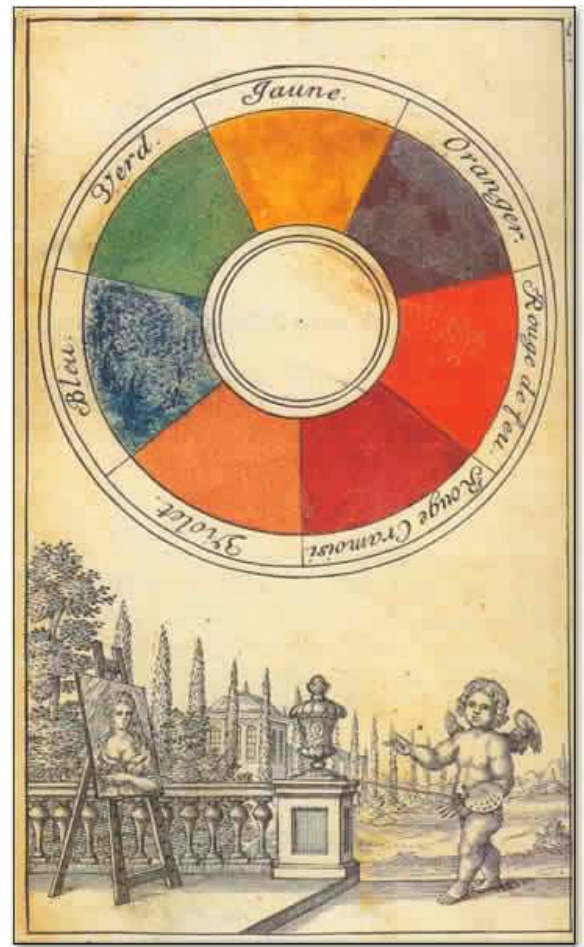
I've been much happier buying fabrics and all kinds of trims and embellishments that I loved on sight, and which inspired me, not necessarily for a specific project.

I used to design a piece in my mind that required light grey polka dots and then spend months of wasted time looking for that fabric rather than having the fun of creating. Now I try to shop from my stash.

A wise friend and phenomenal artist once causally mentioned that she tries to work keeping in mind that "Everything I need is right here right now already". Since then I've often followed those wise words and it's resulted in some projects I've been really happy with. In other words more creating and less shopping.

A few ideas on color written by me and others

First learn the colors you love, clip pictures or take photos from nature that excite you. Create journal pages with a picture, paint or fabric samples to refer to for



color combinations that will suit your personal taste. This works for both figurative sculpture and fiber arts!

Kaffe Fassett and Liza Prior Lucy select fabrics and cut patches which are ALWAYS put up on a design board displaying the complete quilt before sewing. They look at the arrangement with a reducing glass (or binoculars the wrong way) to see what jumps out and does not go. Patches are rearranged and some fabrics removed and replaced until it all works.

When you collect a project box for your next doll you can do basically the same thing. Arrange your costume element fabrics in a row, hat, top, skirt or pants, socks, shoes etc. Lay possible ribbons and trims over the appropriate fabric.

Squint at the combination you have created to see if anything jumps out at you in a bad way. Especially note if there will be a clear distinction between one costume element and the next. Go back to your project box substituting until you have a collection you expect will work. This will benefit your finished project when viewed by others and when photographed.

Once you make a commitment to the fabric you'll use for the first element you need to make don't be surprised to find that you make further changes get to the final result you really like. This is the fun part and is true for both figurative sculptures and fiber arts.

Fabric cut into small pieces will look very different than a larger piece. Small prints will often appear as a 3rd unexpected color when cut into a patch for a quilt or a doll costume.

Large prints will be strongly the main color cut into that specific patch. It may be necessary to cut patches from the same part of the print to get the results you want in quilts or fiber arts.

I love to use relatively oversized prints for doll clothing but do find that I have to fussy cut the pieces to avoid different colored sleeves, fronts, backs etc. Unless of course you like the effect!

Don't forget to avoid the "it all matches" syndrome, add something unexpected.