

General Info

Getting Here

Please remember to bring a print-out of the map on page 4 with you on the day of your workshop! Whether you take a cab or ride app from the train station or are driving with a GPS, you will need the map to get to our door, as the studio is in a large complex of buildings.

Timing

Plan on arriving 15 minutes before the workshop begins so you have plenty of time to settle in before the workshop begins. If you are bringing your own sewing machine, please arrive 20-30 minutes before the workshop begins.

Clothing

With high loft ceilings and tall windows, temperatures in the studio can vary. We suggest that you dress comfortably in layers.

Food & Drink

If you are taking one of our weekend or day-long workshops, a delicious vegetarian lunch will be provided for you each day of the workshop. If you have special dietary needs, we suggest that you bring your own lunch (some suggested sources are provided in our dining resource guide). A refrigerator and microwave are available at the studio for participants to use. Feel free to bring your own snacks/refreshments.

Weekend-long workshops include cocktails, appetizers, and dinner with a wide range of options to suit most dietary needs after Saturday's workshop.

Available for Purchase

Denyse's fabrics, books, stationery and quilts are available for purchase after all workshops.

FAQ's and Policies

Join our mailing list at www.dsquilts.com to receive news about special events and new workshops. Rest assured, DSQ will never share your information with anyone.

Upon registration we will e-mail you a confirmation. Please note that this may take us a day or two. In the event that you do not receive a timely confirmation please do not hesitate to email us at info@dsquilts.com.

Cancellations requested at least eight weeks prior to the workshop date for which you have registered incur a \$50 cancellation fee. If you wish to reschedule for an alternate workshop date, you will be charged a \$50 transfer fee. Cancellations requested less than eight weeks before the scheduled workshop will be refunded 50% of the workshop fee.

Got a special event you'd like to celebrate in a creative way? Let us know!

You can help us give back when you participate in Denyse's Improvisational Patchwork workshop. Donate one or more blocks that you create during class – we'll sew the collected blocks together to make a quilt we'll donate for charity fundraisers.

Tools and Materials

We Provide

All necessary equipment, including sewing machines, is included in your tuition fee. All workshop participants will be provided with a sewing machine, an 18 inch x 24 inch gridded cutting mat, 45 mm rotary cutter and a gridded clear plastic ruler (3 inches x 18 inches). If you prefer to bring your own sewing machine or other tools, please feel free to do so – just let us know in advance and plan to arrive one half hour early to set up your machine.

What You Need to Bring

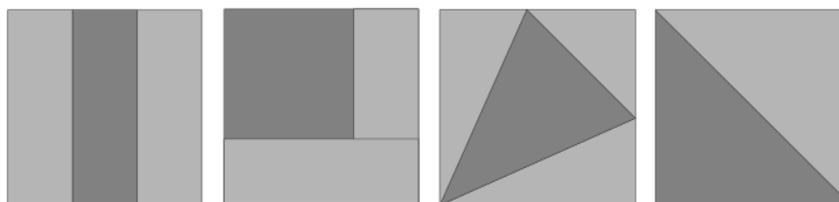
Please review the web site listings and the workshop specifics below for what to bring. For all workshops, bring a digital camera or phone to record progress, and a sketchbook and your favorite drawing tools.

Free-Wheeling Single Girl Quilt Along

Your registration fee includes a Fat-Quarter Bundle of Denyse's fabrics collection, and enough yardage for the background (FreeSpirit Licorice), backing (our choice), and binding to complete a twin size Free-Wheeling Single Girl. If you plan on making a larger size or want to choose a different background color, let us know and we'll make the adjustment (additional fees may apply). If you want to use fabric other than Washington Depot for your Single Girl rings, you'll need a total of about 2-3 yards.

Improv Theme & Variation

- Bring a favorite traditional or original block pattern to work with such as the blocks below. Left to right: Basketweave quilt from my book *Modern Quilts Traditional Inspiration*, L pattern, Shoeman's Puzzle pattern from my book *Modern Quilts Traditional Inspiration*, half-square triangle.



You'll get best results and have more fun by keeping things very simple. Remember, you can make secondary visual patterns with how you arrange your blocks, so drill down to identify the most basic elements of a block to begin with. Blocks like (and including) the examples above are all excellent and I encourage you to use these! The blocks as shown have two main colors.

- A total of 3-6 total yards of fabric, based on your preference for working large or small, and how fast (or slow) you typically work. This total should include mostly solids, supplemented with prints and/or yarn-dye wovens in a variety of values and hues. Your overall fabric palette should be simple and reflect the composition of the pattern you are bringing. For instance, if your pattern has three parts, select three main colors and broaden your selection for each by bringing several related fabrics that represent that one color.

Improvitational Patchwork with Denyse & Richard (ONE DAY)

- 1/4 yard yard of a single fabric

Improvitational Patchwork Weekend with Denyse & Richard (TWO DAY)

Saturday 11am to 4pm, Sunday 11am to 2pm

- Please bring a total of about 4-6 yards of fabric to use in combination with fabrics we'll provide. At least half of this should be scraps or fat-quarter-size pieces, made up of several different solids, prints, and/or yarndye fabrics. Also bring about 2 yards of one fabric, preferably a solid.
- sketchbook or paper and your preferred drawing tools.
- a digital camera if helpful for recording work in progress.

Pure Improv Weekend/One Day workshop with Denyse & Richard

Saturday 11am to 4pm, Sunday 11am to 2pm

- Please bring a minimum of 2-4 yards EACH of two solids (4-8 yards total), depending on how fast/slow you usually work. The two fabrics should be either close in hue but slightly different in value, OR similar in value but slightly different in hue. For example, red-orange and orange; lime and grass green; white and cream. Shot cottons or subtle yarn-dye stripes and plaids are an acceptable substitute for a solid. In addition, feel free to bring scraps, fat quarters, and/or yardage of other fabrics including yarn-dye stripes or plaids, or prints. We have solid fabrics available for sale on-site.
- sketchbook or paper and your preferred drawing tools.
- a digital camera if helpful for recording work in progress.

Advanced Improv Weekend with Denyse & Richard

Saturday 11am to 4pm, Sunday 11am to 2pm

- 4 or more improvisationally-pieced blocks.
- 1/2 to a few yards each of several fabrics to be used in creating additional blocks. Please consider a range of values and a mix of solids and prints in your choices. We also have fabric available for sale.
- a sketchbook or paper and your preferred drawing tool.
- a digital camera if helpful for recording work in progress.
- 4-5 improvisational blocks or ideas for a direction you'd like to explore for a quilt project.

Transportation

Denyse Schmidt Quilts, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is on the coast of Long Island Sound. We are approximately sixty miles northeast of New York City (one hour and thirty minutes estimated driving time) and are reachable by air, train and automobile. Our studio is in a historic textile mill complex, formerly home to the American Fabrics Company, which manufactured lace fabric, trim and embroideries from 1908 to 1990.

Our address is 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Building Four, Fourth Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06607. Please take the stairs to the top floor, or call 203-414-3466 (Denyse's cell) when you arrive for assistance with the elevator.

By Air

The two closest major airports to the studio are LaGuardia Airport in New York (one hour and 10 minutes driving time) and Bradley International Airport, north of Hartford, CT (one hour and 15 minutes driving time). Other New York area airports, JFK and Newark, are a bit farther (approximately one hour and thirty minutes driving time). From any of these airports, the best way to reach us is to rent a car, and follow our driving directions, also found in this document.

Smaller regional airports are Tweed –New Haven Airport (thirty minutes by car) and Westchester County Airport in White Plains, New York (forty minutes by car depending on traffic).

Transportation from the Bradley, JFK, LaGuardia and Newark airports is provided by Go Shuttle Airport Shuttle CT, 1-866-284-3247, www.2theairport.com.

By Train

Metro North, www.mta.info, the commuter rail line, makes hourly trips via the New Haven Line between Grand Central Station in New York (42nd Street and Lexington Avenue) and the Bridgeport station (the trip takes approximately one hour and thirty minutes). We are approximately two and a half miles from the station. From the station, the best way to the studio is by taxi. Yellow Cab (below) is located in the station building.

By Ferry

The Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Steamboat Ferry Company www.bpjferry.com, 888-443-3779 runs a scenic ferry service (the trip takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes) between Bridgeport (330 Water Street Dock, Bridgeport, CT 06604) and Port Jefferson (102 West Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY 11777) from May through October. Primarily for pedestrians and bicycles, a limited number of cars are also ferried by prior reservation. The Bridgeport ferry building is located right across the street from the Bridgeport train station. The best way to get to the studio is by taxi. Yellow Cab (below) is located in the train station building.

Ride Sharing App from the station, or Local Taxicab Companies

Yellow Taxi, 203-916-5135. Metro Taxi, 777-7777 or 333-3333. Town Taxi, 203-366-8534. Please bring a copy of the attached map to help navigate to our door!

Driving Directions

Remember to print this map out and bring it with you. Whether you are coming in a cab or using a GPS you will need it to get to our door as we are located in a large complex of buildings.

Traveling I-91 South (from points north)

Take I-91 South to New Haven CT and merge onto I-95 South. Follow directions below.

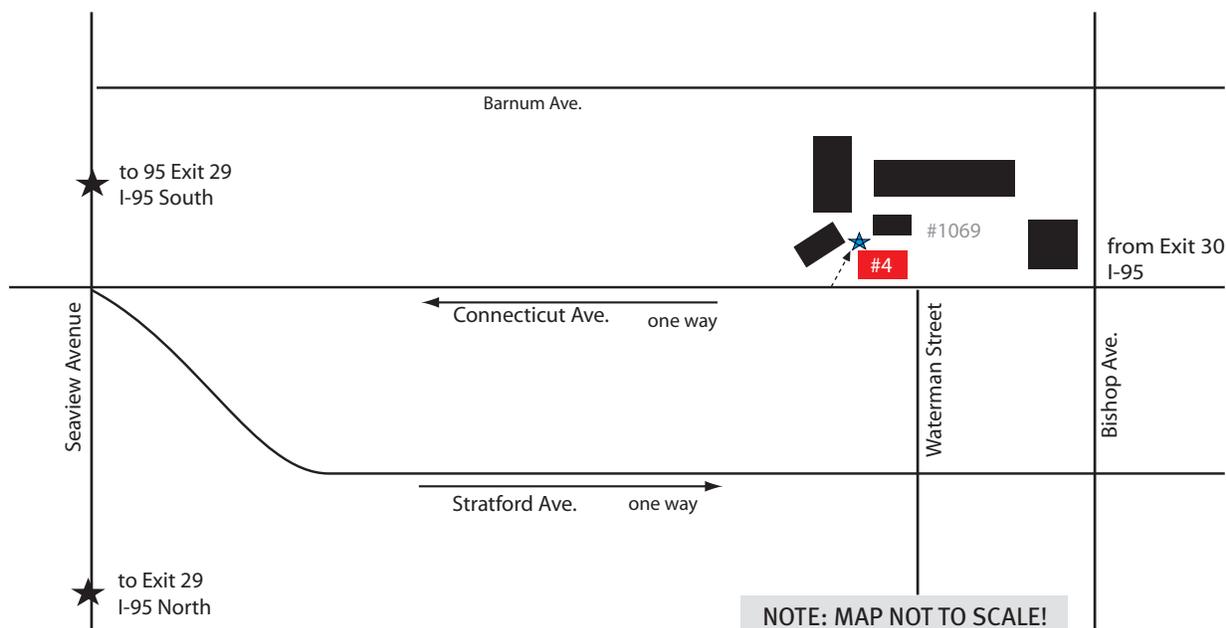
Traveling I-95 South

Take exit 30/Surf Avenue. Turn right at bottom of ramp onto Surf Avenue. Turn left at next light onto Connecticut Avenue. Turn right into second parking lot for 1069 Connecticut Ave, immediately past the building (4-story brick building). Follow directions below from **

Traveling I-95 North

Take exit 30/Lordship Avenue. Turn left at bottom of ramp onto Lordship. Lordship becomes Hollister. Go straight through stop sign, and right at next light onto Stratford Avenue. Take 3rd left onto Waterman Street. Turn left on Connecticut Avenue and make immediate right into parking for 1069. Follow directions below from **

**Entrance is to the right, a grey door in building 4. Park along tan building, please don't block any doors or driveways. On map, blue star indicates entrance (grey door), stairs and elevator to DSQ. Take stairs to fourth (top) floor, or call 203-414-3466 for assistance with elevator.



Accommodations

Denyse Schmidt Quilts is located in an industrial neighborhood of Bridgeport. Accordingly, accommodations are scarce in the immediate neighborhood, but many establishments are just a short drive from the studio. There are many more options a bit farther afield, in Trumbull, Norwalk, or Westport.

Fairfield Circle Inn: <http://www.fairfieldcircleinn.com/>

Close to the Fairfield beaches (accessible off-season without a parking sticker), and the many restaurants and shops of Fairfield center and the Black Rock neighborhood of Bridgeport. Updated with new owners, catering to visiting families of Fairfield University students.

Hi Ho Motel: <http://www.hotelhiho.com/>

Updated with hipster vibe. A short drive to beautiful hiking trails in the Aspetuck water shed area, and the Barcelona restaurant on-site is excellent.

Bridgeport Holiday Inn 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport. 203-334-1234. A little tired, but with on-site parking and located in the downtown area of Bridgeport. Restaurants within walking distance, and a great art store across the street.

The Delamar 275 Old Post Road, Southport. 203-259-2800. A boutique hotel with polished service and fine dining. A short stroll from the picturesque waterfront village of Southport.

GrayBarns Silvermine (Norwalk) CT. On the high end, and located in the historic Silvermine area in Norwalk, the newly fancified inn and more looks sure to please. <http://www.graybarns.com/>,

The Study at Yale: in New Haven, about 20 minutes away. Hang out with the egg heads and partake of all New Haven has to offer. <https://www.thestudyatyale.com/>

Plenty of Bridgeport offerings on airbnb, including our friends who are Super Hosts:<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/6437160?s=51>

Farther south there several chain hotels in Norwalk catering to the many corporations with offices nearby.

Dining

Venues tend to come and go and management changes, so do your homework!

Source Coffee 2889 Fairfield Avenue in the Blackrock section of Bridgeport. 203-522-5662. www.sourcecoffeehouse.com. The best coffee in Bridgeport, unfortunately not walking distance to any of our hotels.

Bloodroot 85 Ferris Street, Bridgeport. 203-576-9168. www.bloodroot.com. To quote Zagat, “this venerable feminist enclave is refreshing, as are the superb ethnic vegetarian and vegan dishes”. For over 30 years Bloodroot has served locally grown, organic produce. With eclectic outdoor seating in warm weather overlooking Long Island Sound.

Brewport 225 South Frontage Road, Bridgeport CT 06604. 203-612-4438, Delicious thin-crust pizza, salads, and of course great beer! Seasonal outdoor seating. www.brewportct.com.

Walrus + Carpenter 2895 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-333-2733. Award-winning smoke-house and gastropub with a large selection of craft beer, delicious and inventive seasonal fare.

Fairfield Centro 269 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport 203-255-1210. www.centroristorante.com. Reasonably priced Italian fare. Crayons and paper tablecloths for jotting down that latest design inspiration. Outdoor seating overlooking the town gazebo.

Frank Pepe's Pizzeria 238 Commerce Drive, Fairfield. 203-333-7373, www.pepespizzeria.com. This latest outpost of the legendary New Haven pizzeria has been cited in Gourmet Magazine as “arguably the best pizza in the country”. Noted for their crispy, thin crust, the white clam pizza is the local specialty. Lines can be very long on weekends, but it's worth the wait.

Bereket Turkish Cuisine 2871 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-333-9393. Inexpensive, delicious, huge portions of authentic Turkish cuisine. BYOB.

Super Duper Weenie 306 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. 203-334-0033.

www.superduperweenie.com. Cited by Gourmet Magazine as “one of America’s ten best hot dog joints”, this unique restaurant is worth the short skip off of exit 24 of I-95. Serving up home-made condiments along with a variety of juicy dogs, they also serve fresh cut fries made on the premises.

Two Roads Brewing Co. 1700 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT. 203-335-2010

www.tworoadsbrewing.com. A stone’s throw from our studio, Two Roads’ beer is fabulous, their graphics are super cool, and they have brought new life to a great old factory building in the ‘hood. Brewery tours, cool things for sale, and excellent food trucks on weekends make it a fun destination.

PizzaCo. 1625 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT, 203-612-7520

PizzaCo makes creative and seasonally-inspired “garage-fired” pizzas in our Italian-built brick oven and serves craft beer, cocktails and wine – all from the full service bar inside our vintage gas station/garage. Right across the street from Two Roads!

Farther afield (but not too far) and highly recommended are Buccolini, Westport Garden Cafe at Terrain (fun shopping too), Kawa Ni, Whelk, and The Cottage.

Local Cultural Attractions

For up-to-date listings and venues, go to www.fcbuzz.org.

Housatonic Museum of Art 900 Lafayette Blvd, Bridgeport. 203-332-5052.

www.hcc.commnet.edu/artmuseum. One of the most significant collections of any two-year college in the country, with a permanent collection that includes works by Rodin, Matisse, Picasso, Miro, and Chagall. Changing exhibitions in the Burt Chernow Galleries.

Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC) Off Sanford Street at the Fairfield train station, in Fairfield Center. 203-259-2036, www.fairfieldtheatre.org. An intimate performance space, offering a wide range of music, from chamber to blues, jazz and pop. Featuring both national and local performers. Other offerings include indie films and professional theatre. FTC operates some of their shows out of the historic Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport. Admission charged.

Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo 1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-394-6565.

www.beardsleyzoo.org. This 36-acre zoo features over 300 animals in North and South American outdoor habitats. Special features include a New England petting farm, indoor rainforest habitat, and a seasonal carousel. Admission charged.

Downtown Cabaret Theatre 263 Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport. 203-576-1636.

www.downtowncabaret.org. An intimate musical theatre with cabaret seating at tables. Bring your own picnic dinner and beverages. Recent performances have included Sweet Charity and Hair. Admission charged.

The Quick Center for the Performing Arts 1073 North Benson Road, on the campus of Fairfield University. 203-254-4010, www.quickcenter.com. A university-based performing arts center, featuring a year round schedule of nationally touring music, theatre and dance artists, as well as a lecture series, experimental black box theatre, and art gallery (the Walsh Gallery). Admission charged for performances.

Elephant's Trunk Route 7, New Milford. 508-896-1975. www.etflea.com. A favorite of Denyse's, this seasonal flea market is a great source for vintage textiles and country flea market treasures. Located in a pasture, about a one hour drive from the studio. Sunday mornings, April to mid-December, from 7 am to 2 pm. Nominal admission.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum 258 Main Street, Ridgefield. 203-438-4519. www.aldrichart.org. Changing exhibits of innovative contemporary painting, sculpture and photography, featuring emerging and mid-career artists. Admission charged.

Franklin Street Works 41 Franklin Street, Stamford. 203-595-5211. www.franklinstreetworks.org. Innovative not-for-profit contemporary art space, cafe, and gathering place. Changing exhibitions, artist projects and related programming.

Weir Farm National Historic Site 735 Nod Hill Road, Wilton. 203-834-1896. www.nps.gov/wefa. The only national park dedicated to an artist. Weir Farm was the home of J. Alden Weir, one of the American Impressionists. The farm provided inspiring subject matter for Weir and many of his friends, including Childe Hassam and John Twachtman. The Burlingame house offers an exhibit of historic photographs and a video presentation of Weir's life and times. Changing exhibits of contemporary artists and tours of two art studios are available. In season, walking tours of the site are offered on Sundays at 11.

Beaches

There are many local and state beaches bordering Long Island Sound in our area. Most offer free access in the late fall and winter, and charge admission in late spring and summer. Most have seasonal changing areas and concession stands. Some of our favorites:

- Sherwood Island State Beach, Westport (off of exit 18, I-95). 203-226-6983, <http://dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/sherwood.htm>
- St. Mary's by the Sea, in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, is a park (not a beach) with gorgeous views over the sound. Follow the signs from Fairfield Avenue in Black Rock.
- Penfield Town Beach, Fairfield Beach Road in Fairfield.
- Seaside Beach, off Barnum Dyke, exit 27 from I-95, in Bridgeport. 203-576-7233.

Farther Afield

New Haven

Twenty-five minutes by train or thirty minutes driving, New Haven offers the museums, music and theatre of Yale University, www.yale.edu. Also in New Haven are the Long Wharf Theatre, a regional theatre company, www.longwharf.org, and the Schubert Theatre, www.capa.com/newhaven, a popular venue for touring performances, famous for the pre-Broadway tryout.

New York

One hour and thirty minutes by train or driving from our studio, NYC offers some of the worlds best museums, theatres, and musical performances. Best sources for timely information are the New York Times. www.nytimes.com Time Out Magazine, www.timeout.com/newyork and New York Magazine. www.nymag.com