DOTTIE'S TIPS FOR CONSTRUCTING "MINI QUILTS" (a.k.a., "Postcard Quilts") SIZE: 5" x 8"

GENERAL TIPS:

- Consider letting the fabrics dictate your 'design' rather than "thinking of a design" then trying to find the fabric to implement it! Please avoid political and/or other controversial references, etc..
- Mini Quilts typically sell in the $10 -$15 range (a price to be chosen by the Guild) so consider the following tips:
  1. It's OK to make many that are similar in design/content. For example, I had some lighthouse fabric with about 6 different lighthouses. I made 6 mini Quilts using those 6 lighthouses varying the design so each was unique.
  2. Sometimes "Less is More" – no need to over-embellish your mini quilts – it's a small canvas! $10-$15 isn't a lot of money – so constrain the time and effort you're putting into each Mini Quilt to be in proportion to this small amount of $$. With that said, if there's a skill that you want to try, (e.g., thread painting, Free Motion Quilting), this is a delightfully small canvas on which to practice!
  3. Please stick to the 5" X 8" size; It complicates so many things if you vary from this size format.
- Always use a Non-Stick Pressing sheet to protect your Iron and Ironing Board from the heat bonding adhesives.

- **MINI QUILT "FRONT" (Dottie's Method using bonded interfacing behind the background fabric)**:
  1. Heat Bond the background fabric(s) to light-to-medium weight one-side fusible interfacing (cut to ~ 5"X8" also). This "background" may be one piece of fabric, or many fabric pieces until the 5"X8" surface of the Interfacing is covered completely by fabric. This will give you enough weight & thickness to do certain embellishments (i.e., quilting, thread painting, etc.) BEFORE fusing to the thick, stiff Stabilizer.
  2. Arrange your applique pieces on the background fabric. Once you're satisfied with your design, fuse/heat-bond any applique pieces (see "Applique Pieces Prep" below) on top of the background fabric(s).
  3. Optionally, top/edge-stitch/free-motion quilt, thread paint your design. If you're adding other embellishments that are heat-sensitive (e.g., tulle, beading, etc.), add these embellishments AFTER heat bonding your design piece to the Stabilizer to avoid melting the embellishments.
  4. Now Heat Bond your front piece to the one side of the 5"X8" Stabilizer (Pellon 72F Peltex 2-sided fusible Stabilizer). You can further-embellish your design by sewing through the Stabilizer (e.g., to attach Tulle, beads, etc.), or using glue to attach items that cannot be attached in another way.
  5. Trim excess fabric that extends beyond the Stabilizer.

- **APPLIQUE PIECES PREPARATION**:
  1. If there's a piece of fabric that you want to "fussy cut" (e.g., an animal, a lighthouse, a flower, etc.), rough-cut around the fabric object separating it from the larger fabric piece.
  2. When placing rough cut fabric pieces on Steam-a-Seam, arrange the pieces as close to each other as possible to minimize Steam-a-Seam wastage. Put top piece of S-a-S paper back over pieces to be fused and heat-fuse w/iron. Remove top (loose) piece of paper from Steam-a-seam. Rough-cut around each fabric piece.
  3. Fussy-cut your fabric objects as the paper backing still on the other side of the Steam-a-Seam will keep it stiff enough to detail cut. If you leave a small outline around the object, it will make it stand out!
  4. Peel off the backing on the wrong side of your Applique items – they will be just sticky enough to place on your background, yet you can easily move them around until you're satisfied with the design. All at once, fuse/heat bond with your iron the Applique pieces to the background fabric.
  5. Optionally, you may want to do some top-stitching, thread painting, or free motion quilting to ensure that these appliqued pieces stay in place or to embellish/enhance your design.

- **MINI QUILT "BACK" & Edge Treatments**:
  1. Choose a medium-light colored fabric for your mini quilt backing, cut ~ 5" X 8", and heat-bond it to the Stabilizer. Rotary trim any excess fabric from the 4 edges being careful to avoid cutting into the Stabilizer.
  2. Edges: You'll need to finish off the edges to hold everything together and to cover the raw edge around the Mini Quilt perimeter. Consider a couple of parallel straight lines, a zig-zag, blanket stitch, buttonhole stitch. Alternatively, you can wrap fabric around the edges (using glue or stitching down) in such a way that it makes a small "frame" around the artwork.

- **You're almost done – don't forget to sign & date (with an indelible FABRIC marker, not a "Laundry" pen) and write our guild website www.RNQG.org on the back! CONGRATULATIONS!**