

TEN TIPS FOR TEXTILE ARTISTS

Brecia Kralovic-Logan

OVERVIEW

Textiles are an essential part of all of our lives. Those who work with textiles enjoy an intimate understanding of the warp and weft, the pattern and design, the drape and weight of cloth and the beautiful metaphors that textiles offer us in our creative life. Whether you stitch, loop, weave, or paint, expressing your individual spirit through cloth can be a joyful and challenging endeavor. Remembering to start from your own heart, and developing tools for managing your time, space and materials will support your passion for the colors, textures and diversity of a life filled with textile art.

TIP ONE: START WITH YOUR SPARK

Each one of us has a spirit or spark that is uniquely expressed only through us. That spark includes the sum total of our experiences, skills, strengths and challenges. Journal about what makes you unique. Write a statement that clearly defines why you make art and hang it somewhere you will be able to read it often.

TIP TWO: FEED YOUR PASSION

Passion is fuel and we need to keep connected to our source if we are to continue to create. Notice what gives you tingles; what makes you giddy, what makes you feel sublimely happy. Make a list of things that you love and include them in your life as much as possible. Feel your passion and let it fuel your creativity.

TIP THREE: TRUST YOUR INTUITION

Listen to your urgings and inklings and follow that thread. Look inside for guidance and then take the time to still yourself so you can receive. Trust yourself when exploring new techniques, materials or ideas.

TIP FOUR: DEFINE YOUR PERSONAL STYLE

The more you can identify the things that really inspire you, the closer you will be to defining your personal style. Collect pictures, poems, books, and anything that has the colors, textures, shapes, lines, and feelings that you react and respond to.

TIP FIVE: LOOK FOR INSPIRATION IN UNLIKELY PLACES

Stay alert and you can find ideas for your textile work just about anywhere from Home depot to the zoo. Be in the habit of bringing your camera along when you are out and about.

TIP SIX: USE BOXES, BOOKS, BOARDS AND BINDERS

Organizing tools are essential for creative people. Use large bulletin boards for displaying your inspiring images, lists of goals, calendar of events and things to do. Collect photos, picture, fabrics, yarns, beads, dyes, natural materials etc. in plastic see through boxes for easy storage. Keeps journals of drawings, poems, photos and writings and binders for samples, notes and workshop info.

TIP SEVEN: ORGANIZE YOUR STUDIO OR WORK SPACE

Organize your studio or work space into areas for the different processes you do in your work. A sewing station that is permanently set up is ideal but if that isn't possible, store sewing materials together. Create an area for messy jobs like dyeing or surface design. Keep supplies for various projects in tubs so that you can just grab it and begin.

TIP EIGHT: KEEP A CALENDAR

Keep a calendar of yearly events and exhibits and plan ahead by counting backwards from each due date. Mark each week so that you know what has to be accomplished in order to have your whole project finished and photographed well before the deadline.

TIP NINE: BRING SMALL HAND-WORK PROJECTS WITH YOU

Bring small hand-work projects with you wherever you go. Have several bags with knitting or hand stitching in your car, by your couch and even by your bedside. Using those small amounts of time adds up to completed projects.

TIP TEN: COLLABORATE

Collaborate with other textile artists and those who work in different mediums. Connect with fiber communities to enjoy the camaraderie, get inspired, inspire others and spend time with people who value textile art.

RESOURCES

Please visit www.breciacreative.com for information about fiber workshops and individual and group creativity coaching.

The Creative SPIRAL: workbook coming soon. For information please visit www.breciacreative.com

Creative Textiles: Intermountain Weavers Conference, Durango Colorado July 2011 <http://www.intermountainweavers.org/Conference/workshop>

ABOUT BRECIA KRALOVIC-LOGAN

Brecia Kralovic-Logan, is an award winning fiber artist and creativity coach. She specializes in coaching for textile artists and loves to work with women who want to explore their passion, originality and natural development as creative individuals. She teaches workshops, lectures, and exhibits nationally. Her distinctive fiber art work has been shown in galleries, museums and fashion shows and has been published in *Shuttle*, *Spindle* and *Dyepot*, *Belle Armoire* and *Craft International* magazines. She is the owner of *pebble in the pond* art studio in Santa Barbara, Ca.

