



## Goodbye Ruler, Goodbye Rotary Cutter

When the quiltmakers of Caohagan Island learned to quilt, they didn't have rulers, pencil or paper. They did have fabric and scissors. Looking at black-and-white drawings of traditional blocks from Maggie Malone and Ruby McKim books, they began free cutting patches for blocks. The color and fabric choices were their own. Over time, they added appliqué to their quilting skills. They worked with just scissors and fabric — no templates or patterns or pencils or marking pens.

In this workshop, you'll try your hand at free cutting Caohagan Island style. We'll begin by free cutting and piecing a block of your choice. You can bring an image — black and white only, please — or select from the images the instructor will have from Maggie Malone and Ruby McKim books just as the Caohagan Island quiltmakers did. Then we'll move to free cutting appliqué motifs as you design-as-you go a small quilt top. You'll learn how the Caohagan quiltmakers piece some of their appliqués before putting them onto their quilts. By the way, there will be no irons, only finger pressing and basting of a few seams to one side.

**Fabric to bring: Shop your stash. We will create a community stash of all the fabrics everyone brings. You likely will work with fabrics others have brought as well as those you bring. So don't purchase fabric for this project except for the fat quarter of solid for the background (see below).**

- Fat quarter of a solid-color fabric. This will be the background of your appliqué piece. If you want to use your piece as a pillow sham, you will need 1½ yards of this fabric if you want the front and back of the sham to be the same fabric. The instructor will provide a handout of how to make a pillow sham to those who want to do this with their pieces.
- Small cuts of stripes, printed (not woven) plaids and polka dots. These are the Caohagan Island quiltmakers favorite fabrics. If you don't have all three of these kinds of fabrics, bring what you have. The instructor will have some printed plaids to add to the community stash.
- Small cuts of prints and solids that you like and are willing to share with others. These can be flowers, geometrics, novelty prints — you just have to like what you bring. This is not an opportunity to download your “ugly” fabrics. A half dozen pieces per person should give us a nice community stash. Please have these pressed before class.

### **Supplies to bring**

- Fabric scissors
- Needles and white thread (no colors, please) for hand sewing
- Hand seam presser if you have one
- If you want to do fused appliqué, bring your preferred type of fusing, enough to back a number of appliqué shapes. If you will fuse, bring an iron and ironing pad.
- Optional: A photo of an image you wish to appliqué. This should relate to your home environment, inside or out. You need to take this photo not cut it out of a publication or print from online. You can have your photo on paper, phone or iPad.