

Word Salad: Found Poems

by Kathryn Pellman

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Host Susan Brubaker Knapp and quilt artist Kathryn Pellman

Materials

- Fabric with printed words
- Note: Look for words in selvages and prints. Once you start looking, you will be surprised how many words are embedded and hidden in your fabric collection.
- Background (A solid or subtle print works best.)
- Preprinted figure or animal
- Paper-backed fusible web (I used Pellon® Wonder-Under® 805.)
- Felt
- Sew-in interfacing (I used Pellon® 910.)

Optional

- Portable work surface
- Monofilament thread in clear

Found poems are playful, silly, and fun. Sometimes they make sense; sometimes they don't. At their best, they will provide an unexpected story.

DIRECTIONS

1. Apply fusible to the preprinted figure or animal; this will be the storyteller. Remove paper backing and trim.
2. On a portable work surface—foam core with felt adhered with spray adhesive—place the background and the 'storyteller.' This helps when moving the finished collage to the ironing station.

Tip: Mark the size of the finished piece to keep the words organized and to mark the outer boundaries.

3. Cut and fuse all words leaving enough fabric on the outside edge to trim. Remove the paper backing. You will trim later. You will need more words than you will use in this piece.

Tip: The words should include a variety of fonts, sizes, and colors. This will make the piece look interesting and give more life to the quilt.

4. Start with words that catch your attention and randomly place them on the background adding more words until you like the story.
5. Once you like what you have, start trimming the words and placing them down, 1 line at a time. just barely fusing the words with the side of the iron so they can be easily moved if you need to make a change. The lines don't typically end as planned so you may need to readjust.
6. Hold a 12" square acrylic ruler over the piece to see what it will look like and how everything will fit into the space once it is cut to size.
7. After everything is laid out and you are completely satisfied with your Word Salad, fuse to background. Steam both sides before layering.

8. Layer the quilt with the felt for backing, interfacing instead of batting, and the Word Salad quilt top.
9. Outline and quilt the figure as desired. Quilt a continuous line along the top and bottom of the words.

Tip: *Use monofilament thread.*

10. Trim to the finished size.
11. Finish the edge with a tight buttonhole stitch or satin stitch.

Tip: *The top thread should match the background fabric.*

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