

# Making SOMETHING from NOTHING

## Toronto's Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles

**SOMETHING FROM NOTHING:** workshop/ a beginner's exploration of surface design:  
***A fun creative workshop suitable for all experience levels***  
***Doesn't require a large workspace***  
***Very inexpensive...use what you already have***  
***Very much appreciated by receivers of your efforts***

This workshop is an exploration of surface design using textiles in combination with "leftovers" found in our homes.

Leftovers include the bits of yarn/thread snipped when knitting, crocheting, embroidering, quilting, etc and those little bits and pieces of fabric clipped when sewing, altering etc... I have 2 separate bags in my sewing space, one for threads and another for fabric and drop the bits in as I work.



In 2012, I attended my first "throw it all in" workshop at the ISRAEL QUILT CONFERENCE in Jerusalem. The workshop leader, an amazing young man from Neri Bloomfield School of Design had prepared a list of "junk" items for us to bring from home. Participants added their "junk" into the large salad bowl in the centre of the work table. The bowl was shaken and everyone in turn pulled out "stuff" from the bowl and our assignment was to create something from the "stuff".

### Materials:

All of the materials are suggestions and not mandatory. You may think of other things you find around your home which are very suitable for creating special art for special persons or for yourself.

#### 1) Fabric Option:

- Approximately 10" x 15" piece of fabric
- could be twill or denim, shop cloth, cheesecloth layer covered by sparkly veil layer, quilting cotton or broken down jean fabric
- or a large piece of fabric from discarded clothing/ pillowcase, sheet, curtain,
- whatever you have



## 2) Sewing Supplies:

- needles, thread, thimble, scissors, etc
- Sewing Machine Optional



## 3) Stationery options

- **For Cardmaking:**
  - Frame cards and envelopes from [www.clearbags.ca](http://www.clearbags.ca) Tell them you are an artist from Pomegranate Guild for discount.
- **For postcards:**
  - cello envelopes to hold 4" x 6" textile postcard
- **For larger work:**
  - Work can be bound as you would bind a quilt. It can be attached to quilt batting.
  - Or placed in a picture frame with or without an archival matte.
  - A resurfaced piece can be appliquéd onto another work/quilt/card/millinery....

## 4) Glue: options if you're not attaching with thread and needle

- Elmers Glue all is an ok glue (Glue that says "School glue" usually fails to stick so "think" adult glue)
- WHITE/COLOURLESS Gorilla glue (no yellow)
- Glue gun with white/colourless glue sticks

## 5) Odd Bits: This activity brings hoarding small objects into an art form.

- yarn, threads, ribbon, string, cord, glitter veiling old pantyhose, cardboard bobbins, bread ties, shreddings from serger etc
- Fabric ends from sewing, threads cut off of sewing and embroidery projects, wedding veiling, organza, sheer fabric, scraps cut off of sewing or alterations or serger, soda pop tabs, onion bags and other similar bags in any colour (white bags cut up make great whitecaps if you wish to create a textured seascape).
- Decor like Angelina, buttons, snaps, paperclips, brass fasteners (butterfly backs), garters, elastic threads, faux jewels from dollar store or any other "discard" you should have thrown out years ago.....



- Also helpful, are old keys (cannot ever remember which door it opened in which house/apartment/condo), key chains, small chains with different patterns
- Embroidery floss and beading are wonderful “finishers” if you have them in your “collection”.
- Stuff..I haven’t thought of yet.

IF YOU have any questions or suggestions,

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