

March Block Lotto

This month we will make Crosses based on designs by Maria Shell. Please check out the resources at the end of the page to see her work. This is based on a small quilt called “Everything All at Once” that is at her show at Visions Art Museum, San Diego. The show is called The Pieced Canvas and it closes April 7.

This a nine patch block. Please use solid colors. The colors should be strong, not pastels unless used in a small quantity. It’s a great place to use colors that are opposite on the color wheel. The blocks will be strong, rich, vibrant.

The four corners should be all the same solid color. The other five blocks that make up the cross should contrast with those corners. They can be pieced or “cheater” fabric such as a stripe. Go crazy. These cross portions can feature many colors depending on the detail you want to create. Feel free to add in black or white especially in the cross portion.

The finished blocks will be about 9.5” inches. Therefore, cut the solid corners at least 3.5”. A little larger will give you a little more playing room. The center strip (3 blocks) and other 2 blocks should also be 3.5”. A simple 3 strip center would be made with 3 1.5” strips to finish at 3.5”.

Maria Shell has had several quilts shown at Quiltcon. I recommend the following sites.

<https://mariashell.com/> Check out her December 30, 2018 blog for a good view of many of her quilts. She also has a book, **Improv Patchwork–Dynamic Quilts Made with Line & Shape**

On the above website, check out her portfolio. What we are working on is something like her 2011-2015 page, the cross quilt on the top row, furthest right.

You tube, Pinterest- search Maria Shell

Instagram- @talesofastitcher