

*An invitation to participate in*

## *All Beings Confluence*

This is a community based project, in which individuals are invited to create a long narrow panel that depicts a life form or species on this planet (and beyond, if you wish!). Each Being will be depicted on a sheer panel with the intention that they will be installed together in such a way that we will always see other beings through it giving us a wonderful experience of our very real interconnectness. Anyone who wishes can make a panel or a number of panels. The panels will be hung close to each other and we are invited to walk amongst them – to feel them against us and to have them respond to our presence and to provide us with the body knowledge of being only a part of a vast, complex and interconnected whole.

The first installation of “All Beings Confluence” will happen at the Banff Centre of the Arts in August , 2011 in conjunction with the recording of a suite of music composed by Carolyn McDade and sung by women from across North America. We want to inspire the creation of more and more panels everywhere the installation occurs and hope that the addition of living beings continues to flow with an ever-growing energy.

This project is seen as a parallel program and we envision it continuing to grow and move out to any number of places, perhaps becoming a whole series of independent installations – in retreat centres or at festivals, as part of environmental conferences or in play school yards. We believe in abundance and flow and the concept that complexity and seeming chaos self-organizes into coherent evolving centres of life affirming energy.

And we invite you to become part of this ----

## *How I envision our time together.....*

To enable this to happen, I am making myself available to any group that may want to create these panels. I would only need my transportation and accommodation (I'm willing to be billeted) costs covered.

Three day workshops are ideal, but shorter or longer times can be accommodated. The times and locations of the workshops depend on local organizers and the needs of the participants.

We will start by gathering in circle to name our Beings – Think about what image you want to represent or that speaks to you. What is that Being's essence, what are the main characteristics and physical attributes that most describe it? It could be anything – single-celled bacteria, a beautiful flower, a jellyfish, a tiger, a tree – any living being. For example – a ladybug is red with black spots!

Next we'll spend time getting organized, finding our space to work, choosing our sheer and talking about various ways we can approach our individual pieces.

We'll be working with sheers and creating panels that are 12-24 inches wide and approx. 8-12 feet long.

There are many ways of working with sheers using our sewing machines and/or doing handwork. It's also possible to paint images directly on the panels using a mixture of fabric (acrylic) paints and wheat paste (this is like finger painting for adults), using felt pens, colored pencils, basic collage techniques with gel medium, stencils, and rubber stamps.

I have a number of options and techniques that I can show or we can talk about. I will be presenting "How To" lessons to the group or to individuals depending on the techniques each one of us will choose. I see my job as facilitating and assisting each of you with your vision using whatever skills and materials I have available. I will also come with a number of handouts and some examples of various techniques as well as some actual completed panels.

## *What to bring –*

To best depict your Being, it would be good to have a couple of fairly good images that will help you see some specific details. We are not aiming for an exact likeness so much as its essence. Think about the main characteristics and physical attributes that most describe it. Get them as large as you can and in color, if possible. Large calendar images are ideal and there are many images on the internet that can be downloaded also.

You will need a piece of sheer fabric that is 12-24 inches wide and 8-12 feet long. They can be any kind of sheer – polyester, nylon, organza, chiffon, laces, nets, etc. They can be in any color that you'd like and/or they can be old sheer drapery curtains that you'd like to recycle. The criteria is that we will be able to see through it. The actual cutting and creating of the panel can be done in the workshop.

I will be bringing a wide range of pre-cut panels, many of which I've already painted/tinted in a variety of colors. These will all be available for you to use and I would be happy to exchange one of these for whatever you have brought or if you were unable to provide one.

## *If you are planning on sewing your panel –*

**Sewing machine:** Oiled and well cleaned + all attachments for your machine, the sewing guide book, and an extension cord. Some machines have a special plate that's needed for free-hand work (e.g. Singer). Make sure you have that, if it applies to you.

**\*\*\*THE DARNING FOOT FOR YOUR MACHINE IS ESSENTIAL\*\*\***

**Threads:** Cotton, polyester or machine embroidery threads - bring a "wholesome" supply. Add some metallics, rayons, and variegated threads if you have them. Think of the colours of your Beings.

### **Basic Sewing Kit:**

INCLUDE EXTRA NEEDLES (LOTS!!) - size 12 or 11, extra bobbins, container of sewing machine oil and brush, scissors - large and small, seam ripper, straight pins. And anything else you usually use when stitching – i.e. quilting gloves, OTT light, etc.

### **Fabrics:**

- You will need a piece of sheer fabric that is 12-24 inches wide and 8-12 feet long. (See above for more details)
- Any sheer or metallic scraps or lightweight fabrics that may help you depict your Being
- .5 m. of “Wonder Under” or “Misty Fuse” or some other very lightweight iron-on adhesive. (optional)
- .5 m. of medium weight Tear Away nonwoven interfacing (for stiffness on the back when doing seams or free-motion stitching) It will be cut away when the sewing is done. We can use this also to do appliqué using no adhesives, if you wish to work that way. (optional)
- Ribbons, beads, shells, etc. that you might want to incorporate (optional)
- Olfa cutting board and cutter
- Notebook and pen, pencil, eraser
- A few sheets of newsprint paper or large sketchbook to create patterns and designs. (some charcoal, too?)
- Clothespins and/or masking tape to be able to view vertically

### *If you are interested in mainly painting your panel -*

- You will need a piece of sheer fabric that is 12-24 inches wide and 8-12 feet long. (See above for more details)
- You will need a sheet of 4-6 mil plastic to cover the table – approx. 30 “ x 12 feet (Often this is purchased by the organizers and available on site – each location does this differently)
- Set of acrylic paints, fabric paints (Optional - I’ll be bringing a set of these)
- Felt pens
- Colored pencils
- Various collage materials (laces, tissue papers, wools, threads, bits of lightweight fabrics and/or sheers, etc.) as well as Gel Medium to hold them down
- Stencils and stencil brushes,
- Oil pastels
- Rubber stamps and stamp pads
- A Basic Tool kit including pencils, erasers, scissors, glue stick, etc. (whatever you think you might need!) Charcoal is a good addition!
- Paint brushes (a few that are 1” – 3” wide) from the hardware store .
- A couple of foam brushes
- Several 1 cup size containers for mixing and moving paints around and a large 1 gal. container for clean up + plastic spoons for mixing the paint/paste together.
- A couple of sponges (for clean up and to make patterns with)
- Masking tape
- Paper towels
- Notebook and pen, pencil and eraser