

We were stuck for two hours creeping down this mountain highway. Of course it was a memorable subject for the day.



Visiting different regions brings new subject matter. The crepe myrtle in South Carolina are prolific.

I worked with several techniques to achieve the textural details, enjoying each solution.



We drove miles of winding roads on the Blue Ridge Parkway, each turn showing another wonderful vista.

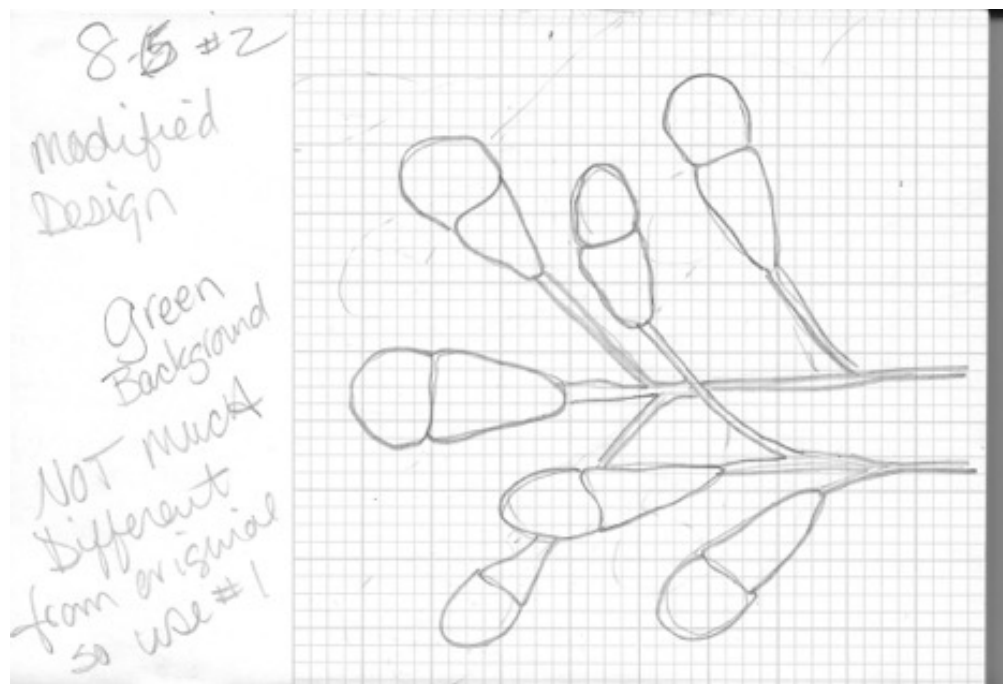
The time involved in embroidery stitching on this square reminded me of the slow process of loop pulling. Each loop or stitch is essential to the final product but only contributes rather than stand out on own.

When are you finished with embroidery? How can one more layer enhance or detract?



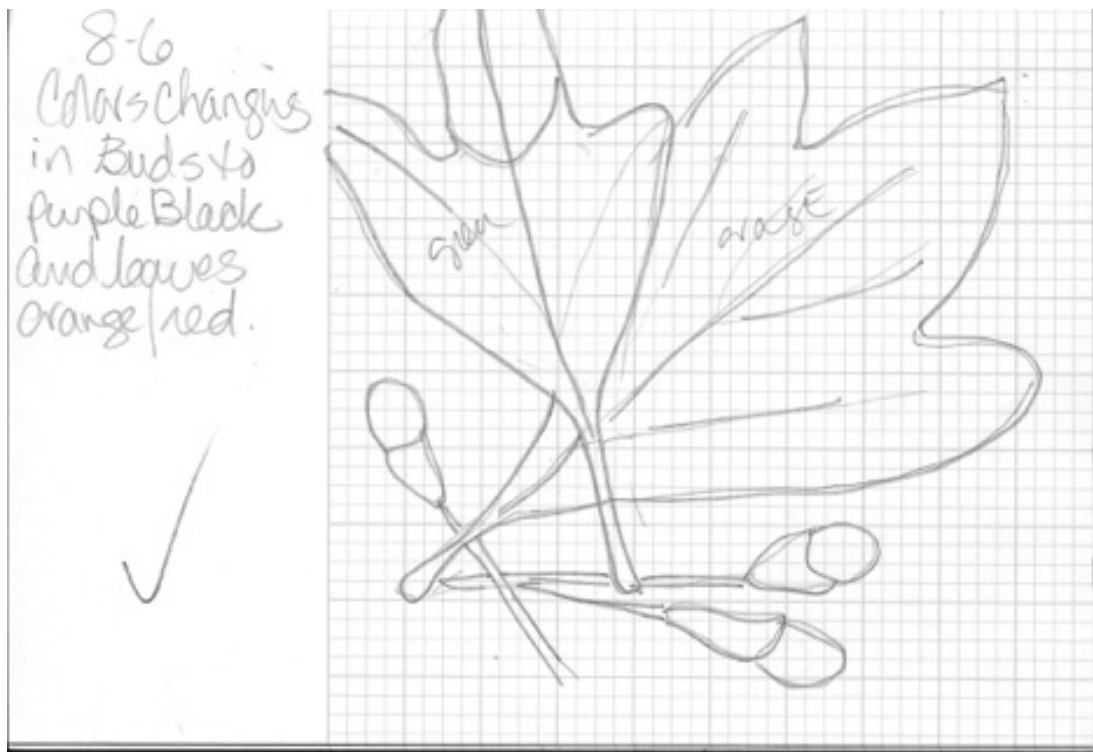
The southern view in late summer.

Applique' using wools.



The sassafras berries are forming.

I used this design as a guide and interpreted it with cottons and beads.



I traced the leaves and around the berry stems.

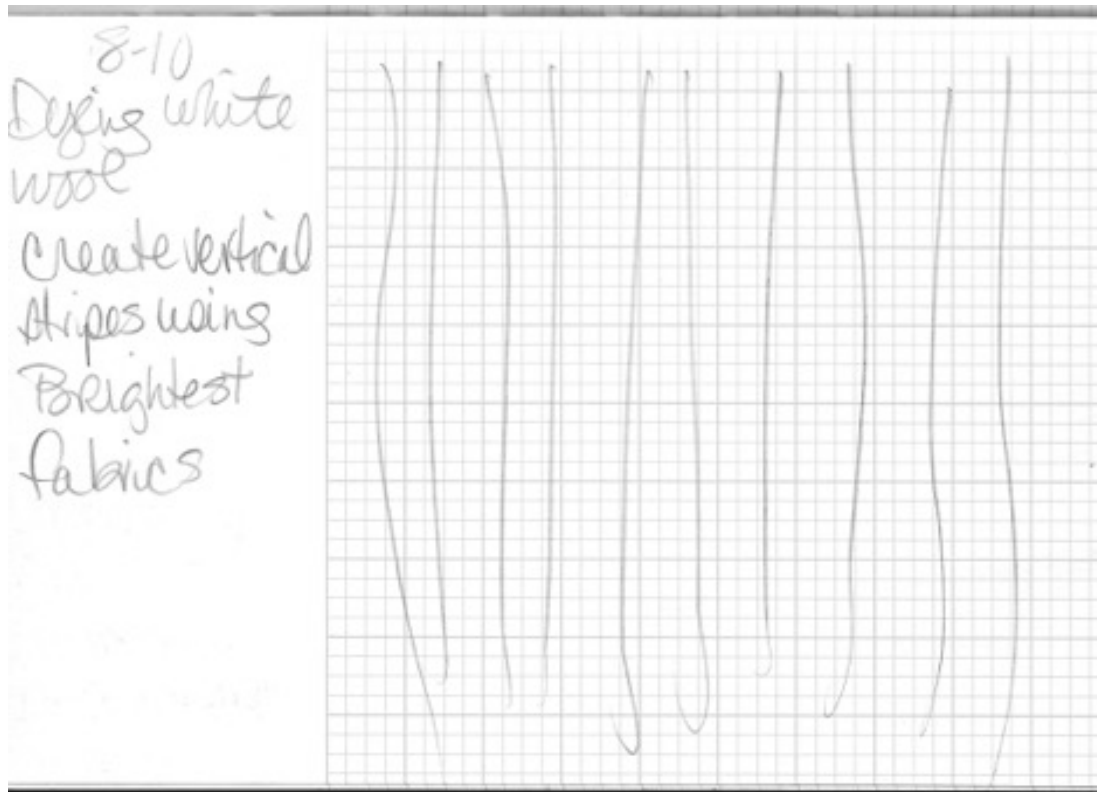
The wool had the coloring of the leaves. Placed on the dark background they are more important.

Journal entries for August 7, 8, 9, 20, 24, 27 and 29 are blank.

These squares explore a simple quilt pattern of diminishing squares.

I am shifting my materials to cottons and selecting patterned fabrics considering how they will relate -- high contrast, coloring.

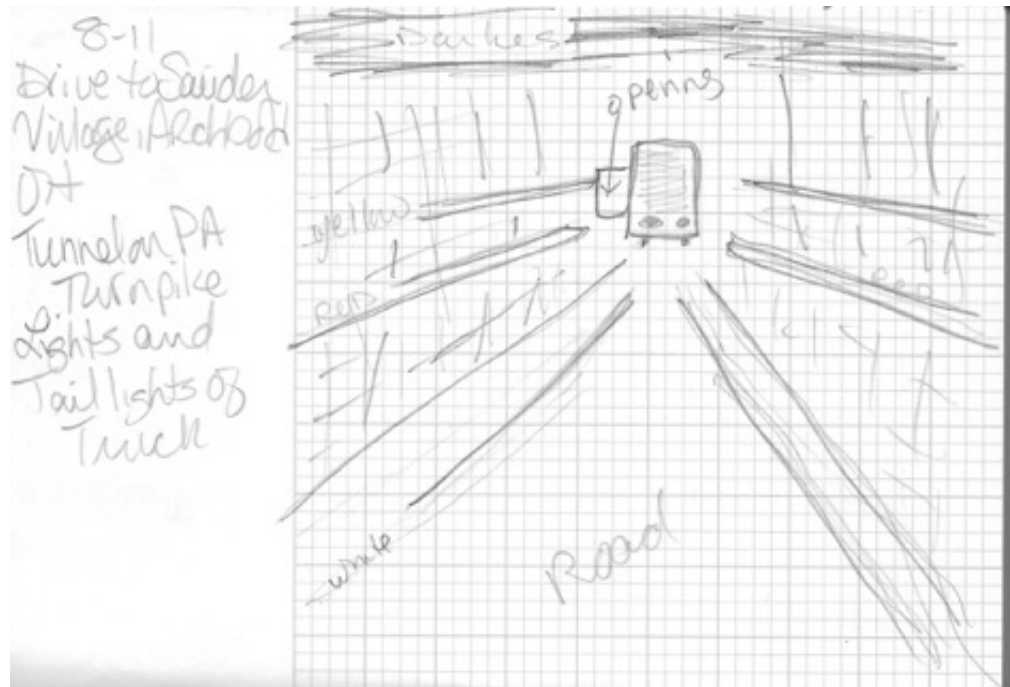
Using different yarns some of the squares have a softer feeling than hooked with wool fabric.



Bright white as the under fabric pops up the dyes. This design was hooked vertically yet when completed it can be rotated to a horizontal format.

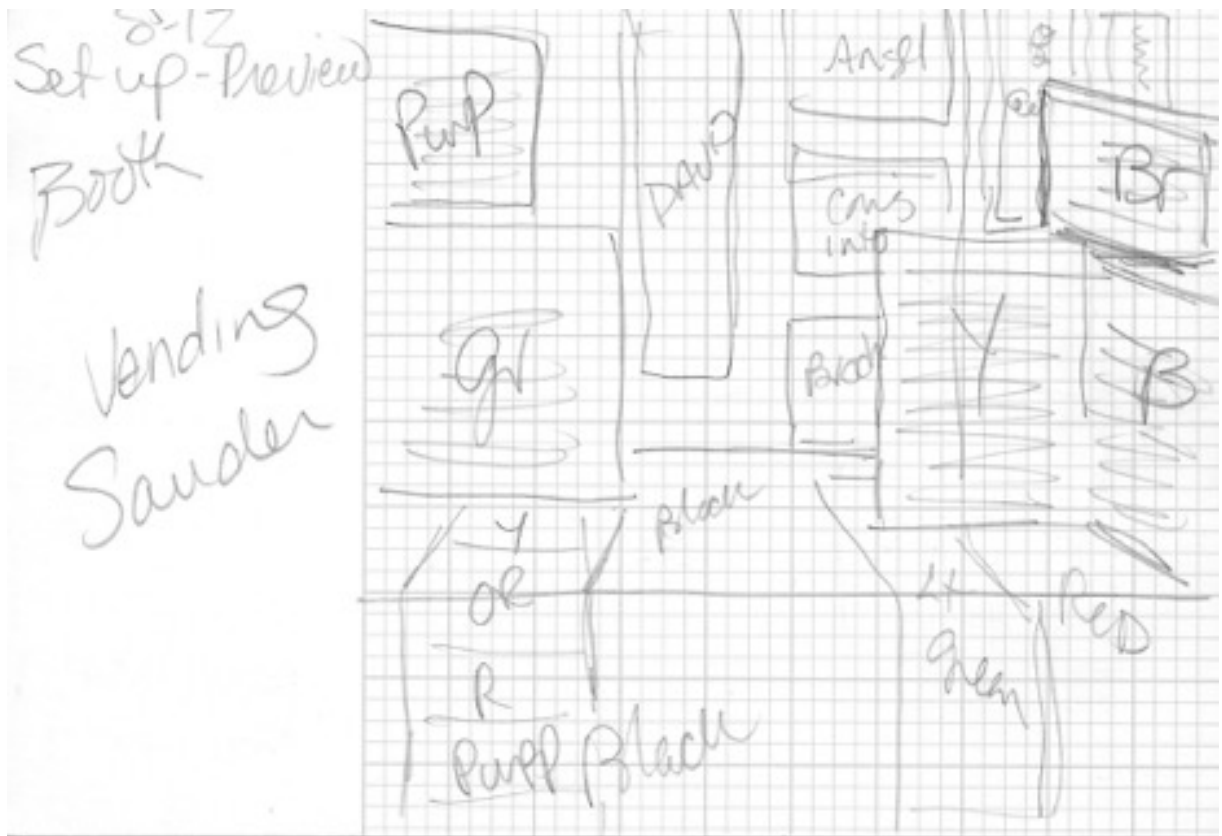
Other squares are viewed horizontally right now and will be released also.

How do you feel looking at the design now? And if rotated?



The tunnel on the PA Turnpike was a different experience from open highway driving.

Since I was the passenger at this point I studied the light reflecting on tiled walls and pinpoint in distance beyond the truck.



Vending as Ruckman Mill Farm allows us to create mini gallery settings. Sauder Village is one of the best venues for vending because of the length of show, and professional props encouraging gallery displays.

The square is a vignette of our booth. Mixed media techniques depicting my approach to fiber art.

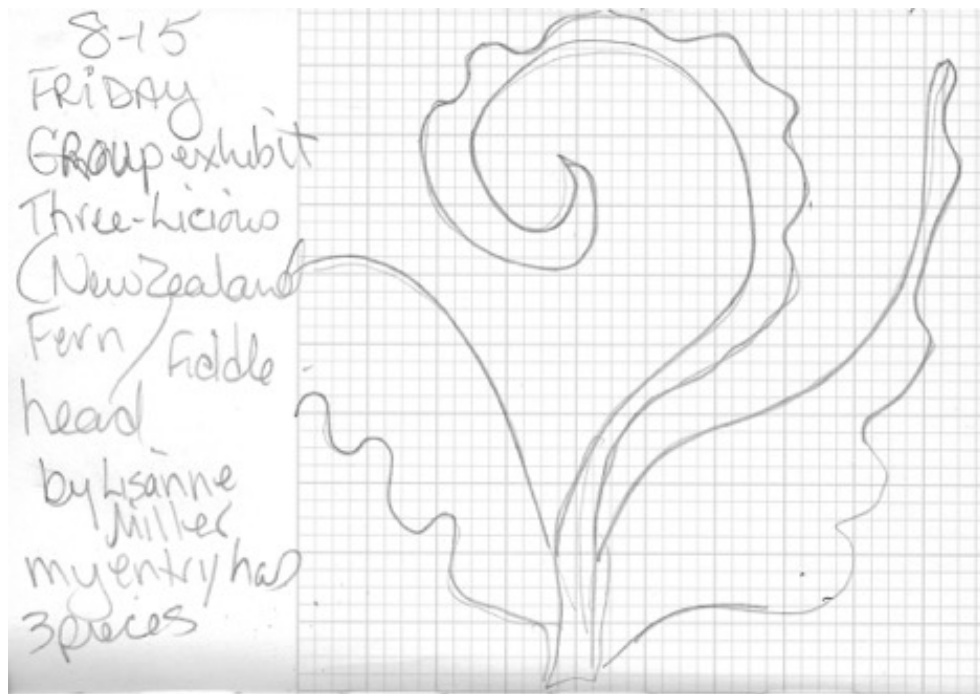
The journal entry of August 13, 2014 is a sketch showing a man and variety of walls of rugs hanging.

Jim and I observed an increase of men attending this year, more of them actively participating in decision making for their own work or supporting their partners.

I decided to depict a wall of hooked work in this square.

Journal entry for August 14, 2014 is a few vertical lines and notes listing a variety of finishing techniques in recognition of the one day workshop I taught.

Instead I used a grey scale creating a striped pattern and inserted a couple of braided rows for interest.



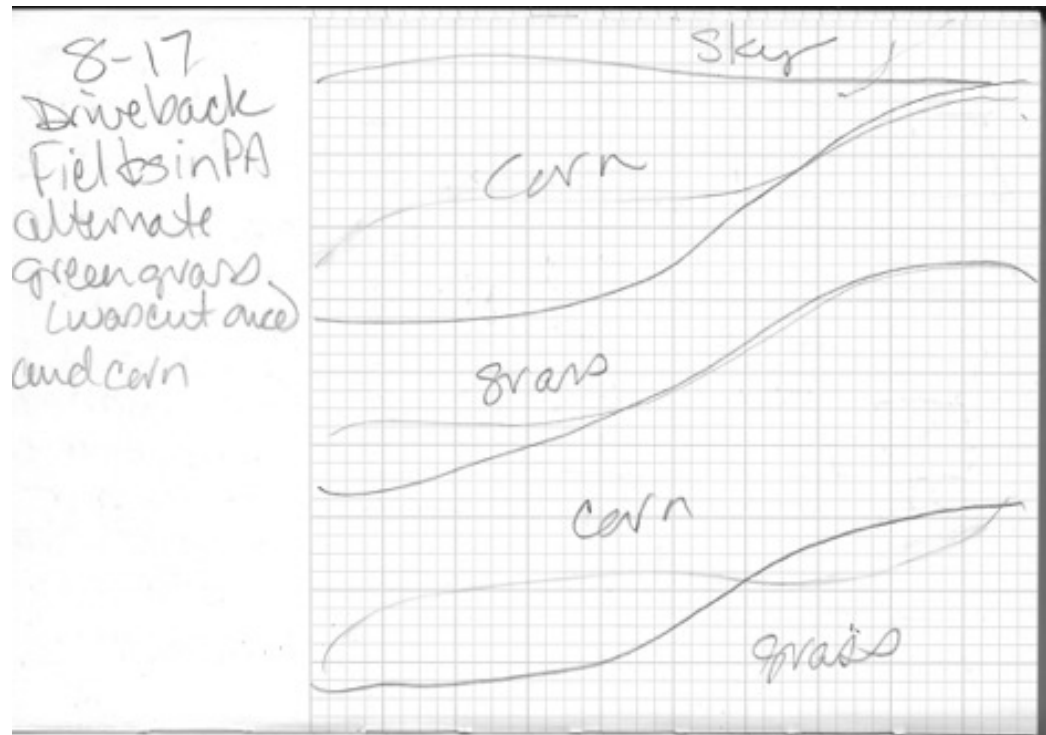
The fiddlehead design which inspired my contribution to 'Tree-Licious' exhibit was inspired by visit to New Zealand.

The metal accent and long stitch for background along with changing the values bring more attention to the same design used previously.

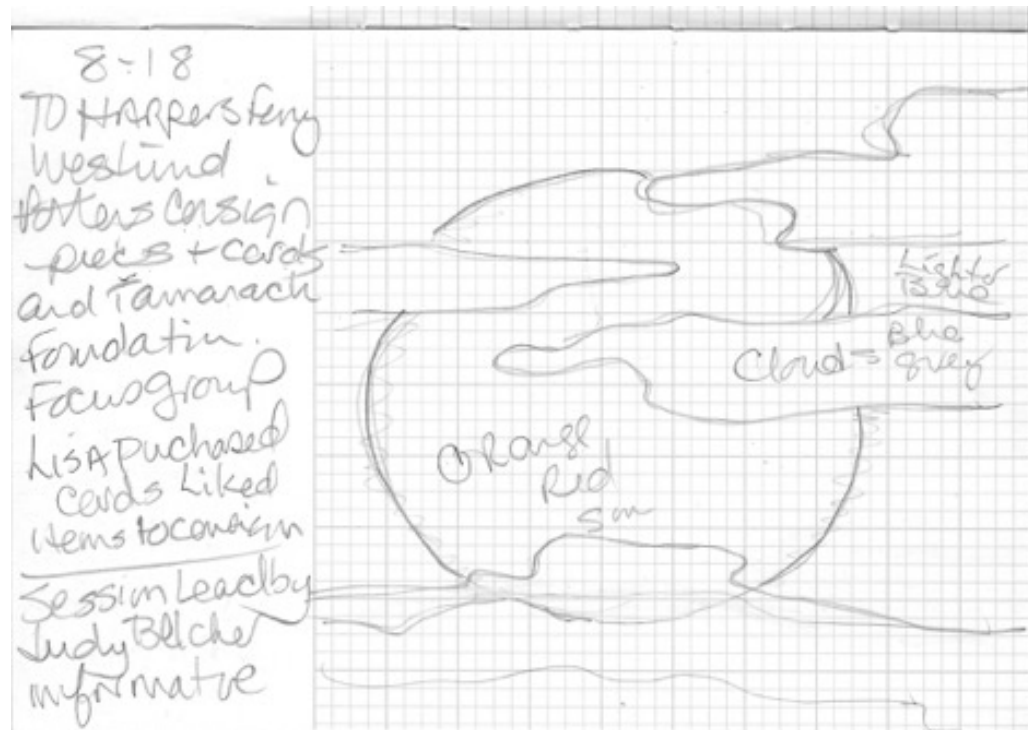


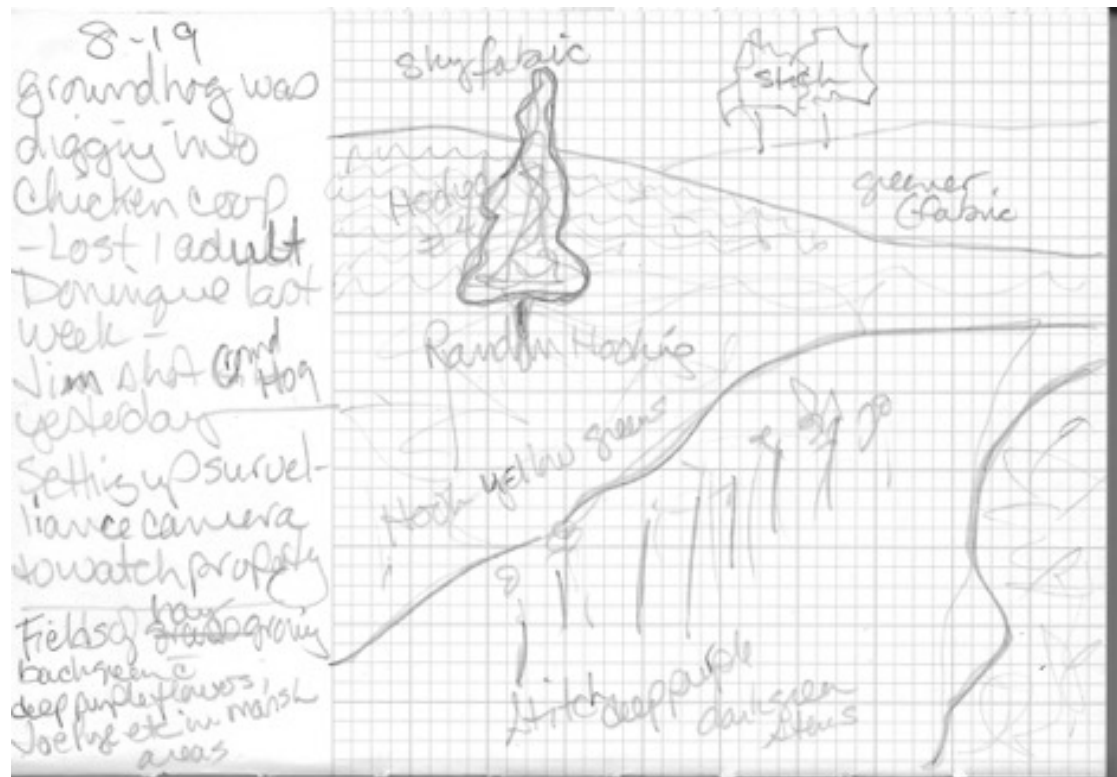
Discussing next year (2015) at Sauder Village, I made the commitment to have the full Year Study completed.

Setting goals is how life evolves.



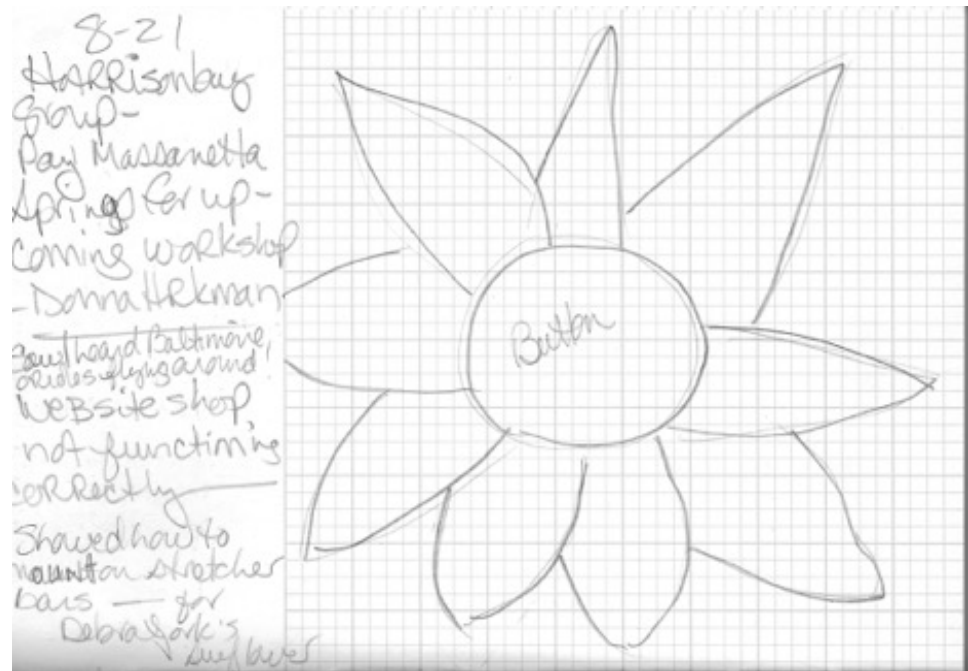
Recognize the hills along interstates? Just a different crop coloring but the same gentle field lines.





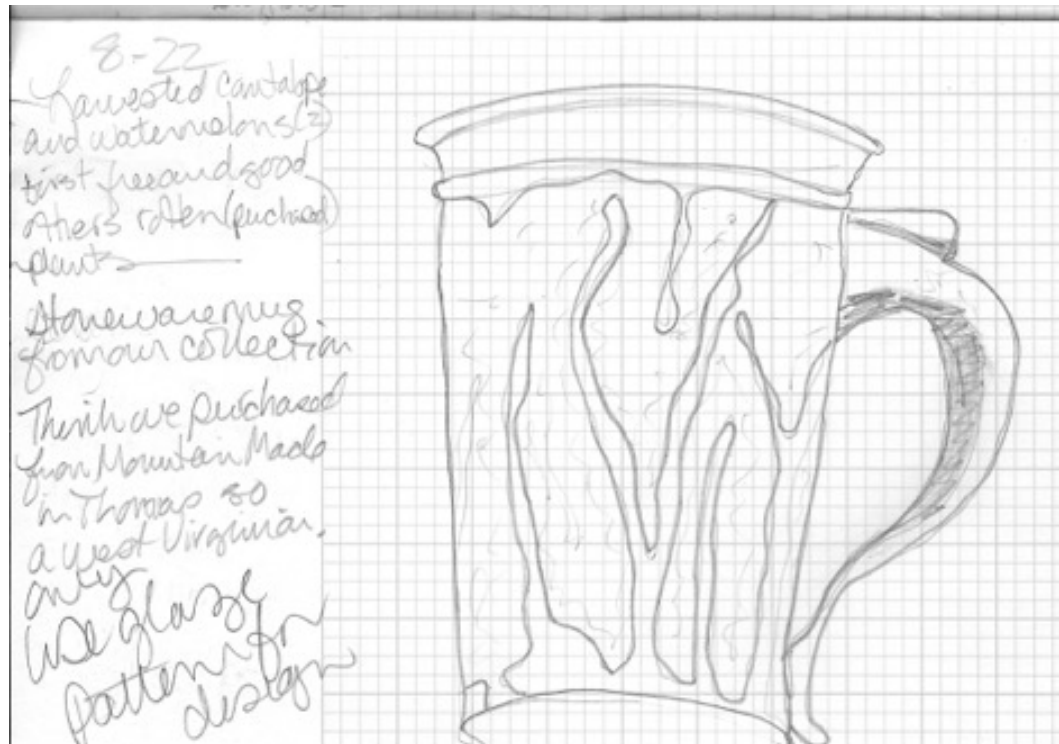
Haying process fascinates me. The steps involved and how fields green up after being cut.

Hayrolls left in the fields create patterns with shadows or full sunlight.



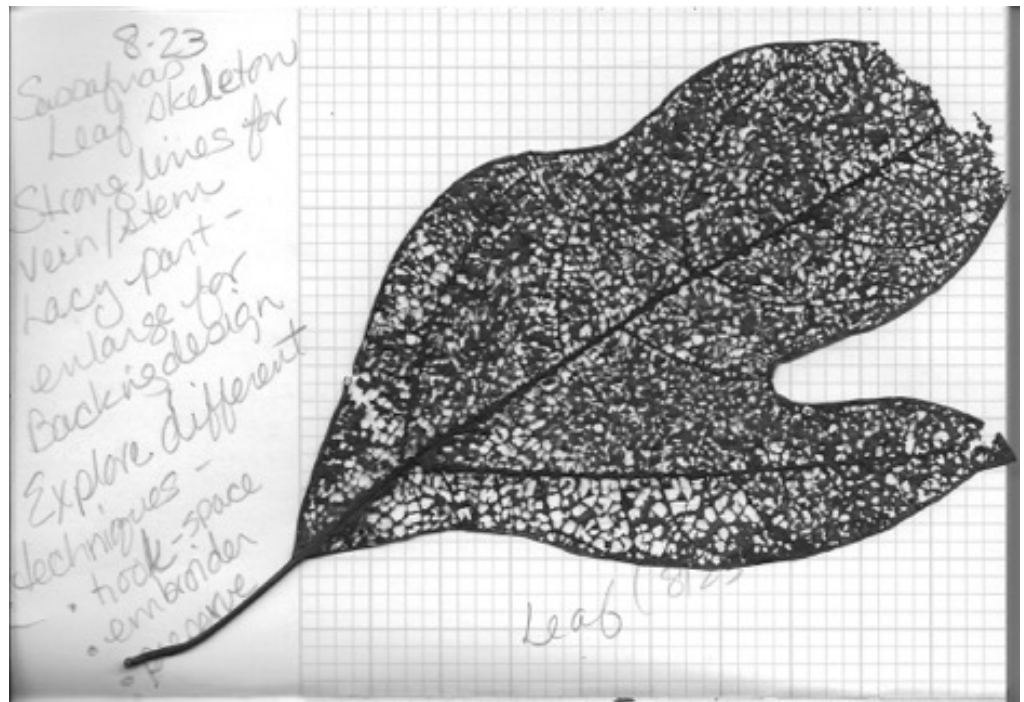
A small square is great to experiment with a new technique.

Standing wool takes patience and foresight of the end design as it is created layer by layer and stitched together.



The year has helped me improve perspective and creating form with shadowing.

For the square I decided to zoom in on a pattern the glaze created.

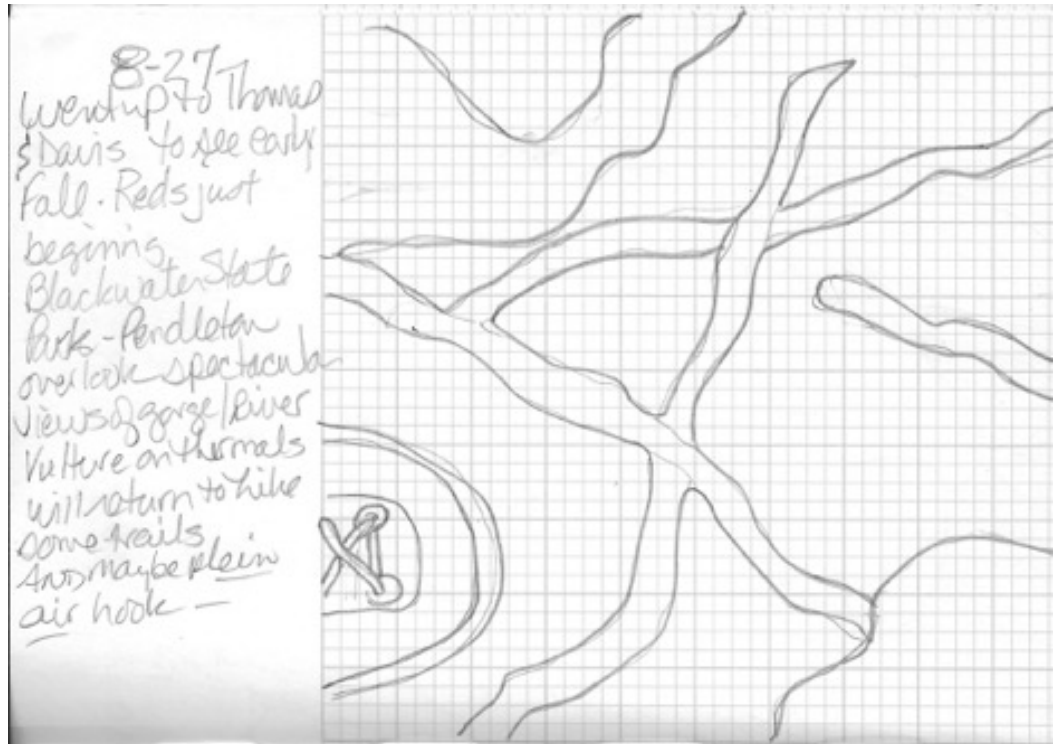


This piece became one of my favorite to work on. As each stitch was added the leaf came to life.



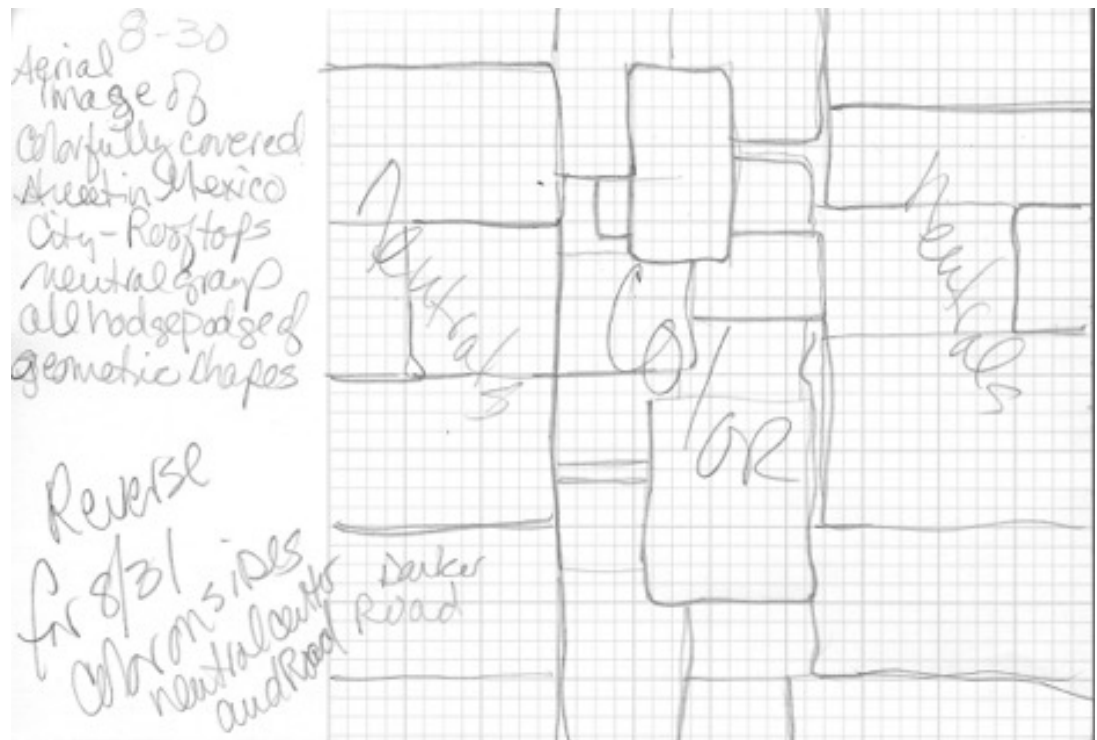
Reflecting on the McDonald Sisters with their variety of textile techniques used on floral designs this sketch was made.

I was inspired to use the upholstery fabric samples and cut out flowers to make the design. There is some braiding included since I knew who had purchased the square based on the date rather than seeing it completed.



We hiked along the Appalachian Trail covering two of the four miles within West Virginia.

My goal is to complete the trail state by state this one was the shortest.



A street scene found on the internet inspired this patterning. I did not exactly reproduce the image but rather used it for suggestion of random composition.