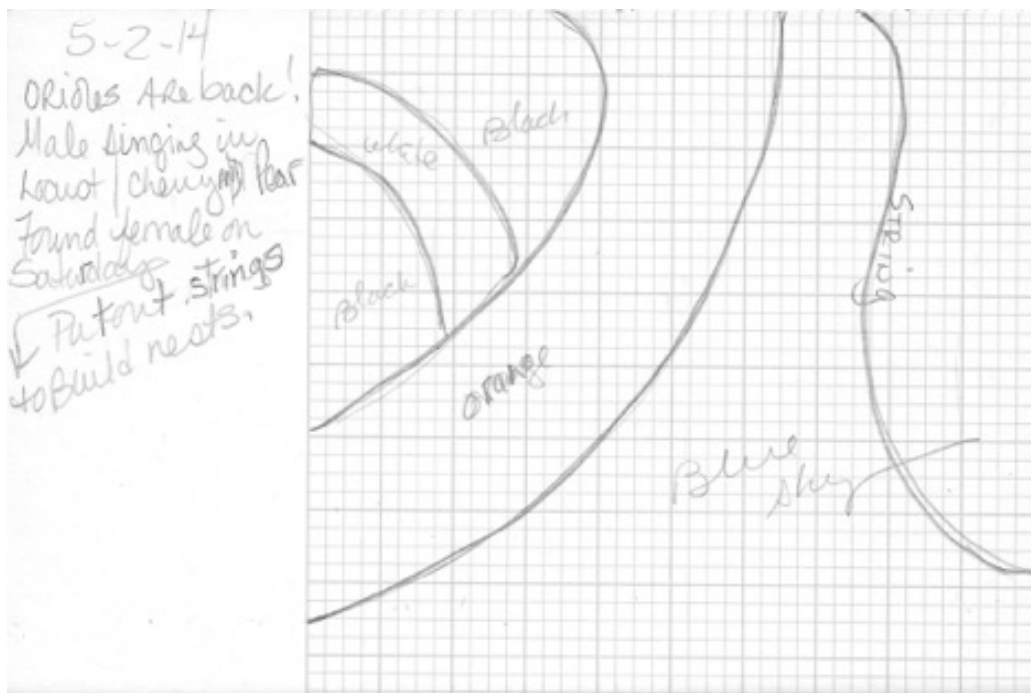
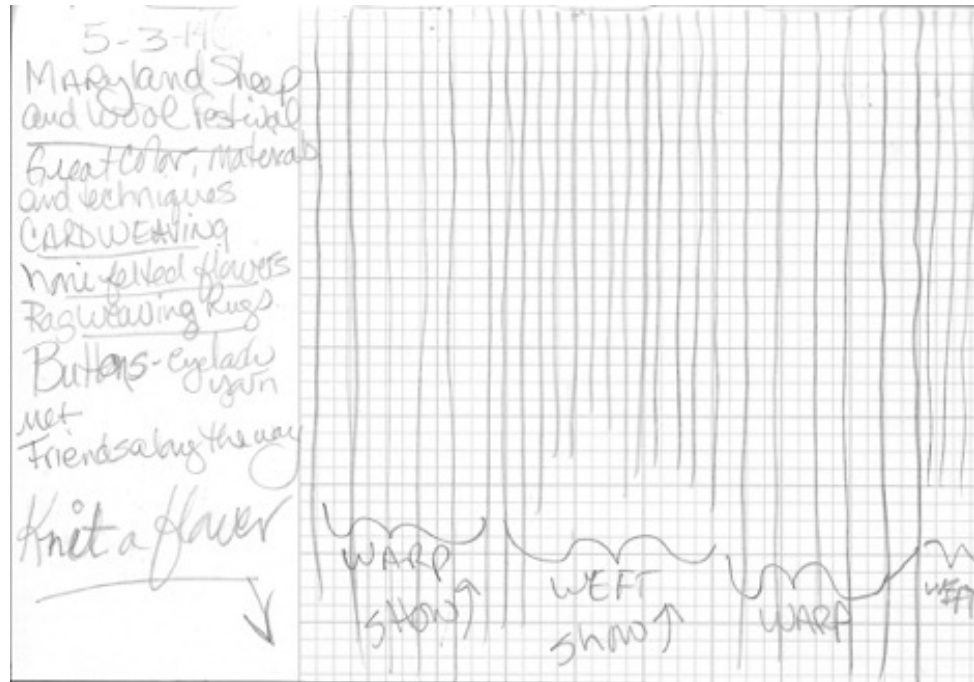


The buds glisten with rain. I added bright green beads to give that same feeling.



My favorite migrating bird is the Baltimore Oriole. They arrive around the beginning of May and it is the cheery song which alerts me to search the male out in a nearby treetop. All is well once each species has returned.

These birds build their nests with strings I supply, chastising me if there is not a sufficient supply each morning. Close up and with that string this applique' piece made me smile as it was worked on.



Studying a variety of weaving patterns and techniques. I hooked a traditional rag rug design similar to ones my father brought to their marriage. They were common in rural Pennsylvania homes.

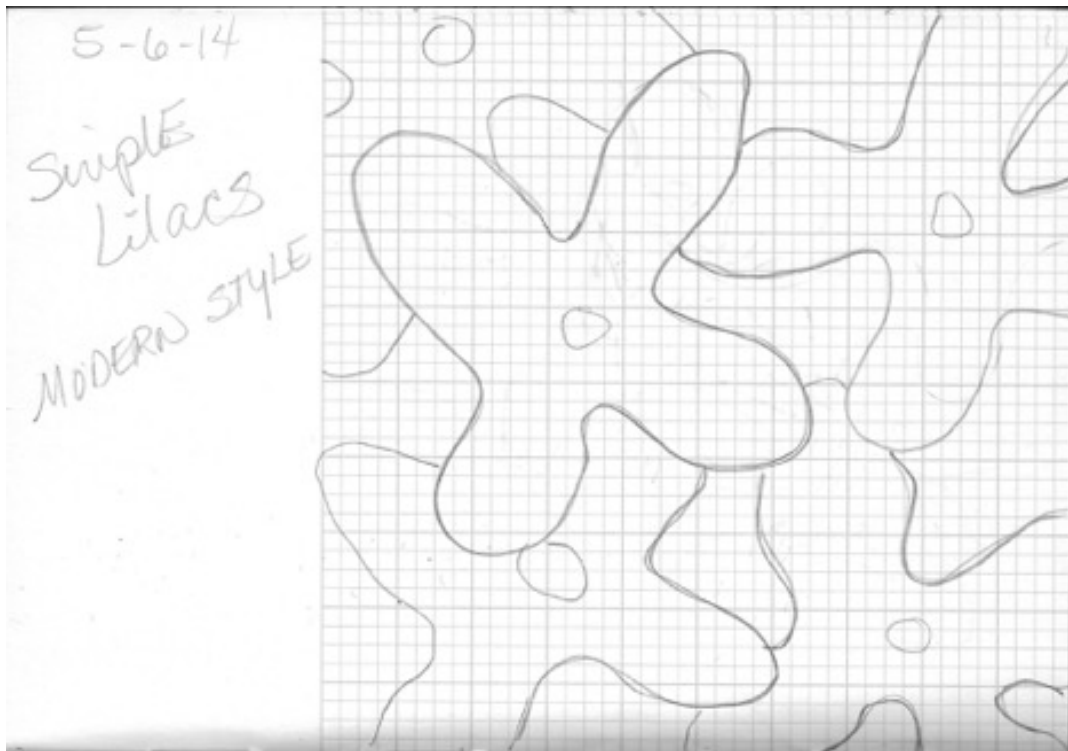
The journal entry for May 4, 2014 says “knitted daffodil bouquet”. Inspired by reading the book NONI Flowers. My grandmother taught me to knit and I inherited her knitting needles. They are still packed away and I did not take the time to locate them. Of course I could have purchased a new set and worked up the pattern of daffodils, but decided to use hers and wait.

Remember this is an independent study project with myself as student and advisor... rules can be adjusted.

See the resource list for full title and credits for the book.

No journal entry for May 5, 2014.

Using a light pastel palette and soft rounded shapes this design hints at the hills coming alive with spring colors.



I sketched a cluster of lilac flowers and then simplified them in an all over pattern reminiscent of the 1970's Mod Flowers.

To continue the free-form design I cut out four petal shapes and attached them with embroidered french knots, connecting the shapes with a few green lines. The yellow and purple combination cements the happy feeling.

No journal entry for May 7, 2014.

The patterning of gentle hills hooked in vertical rows depicts spring.

Note the selection of block of color for each shape. The value changes are wide enough to distinguish each shape. For the sky only one fabric is used while in the mountains a variety of values add interest.

The journal entry says repeat 4-21 subject using the colors of season.

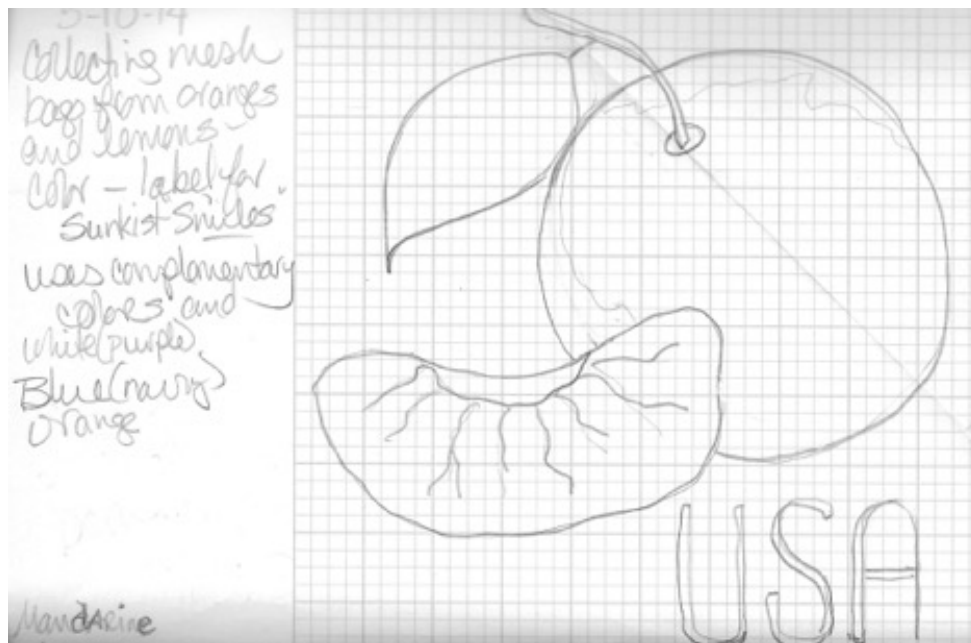
Bright applique' layers attached with embroidery.



No journal entry for May 9, 2014.

This square looks at the landscape from our north view.

Vertical rows of hooking and bright green outlines for the buds popping out.



I painted the linen and embroidered USA in white. That is how far the design has progressed so far. The label is my inspiration.

The journal entry for May 11, 2014 is three slightly curved lines dividing the square horizontally.

The colors of plowed field, mustard, and winter rye growing stuck in my mind on the five hour trip across the state to Ripley and Cedar Lakes rug camp.

The sliver of blue in upper right adds depth and identity to the design- sky.

May 12, 2014 repeats this design with four more equal sections and a pastel color plan.

How do the different color selections change the focus?

Journal entry May 13, 2014 is an oak tree sketched at Cedar Lake Conference Center just beginning to bud out.

Journal note for May 14 is a tool used by rughookers to keep materials handy.

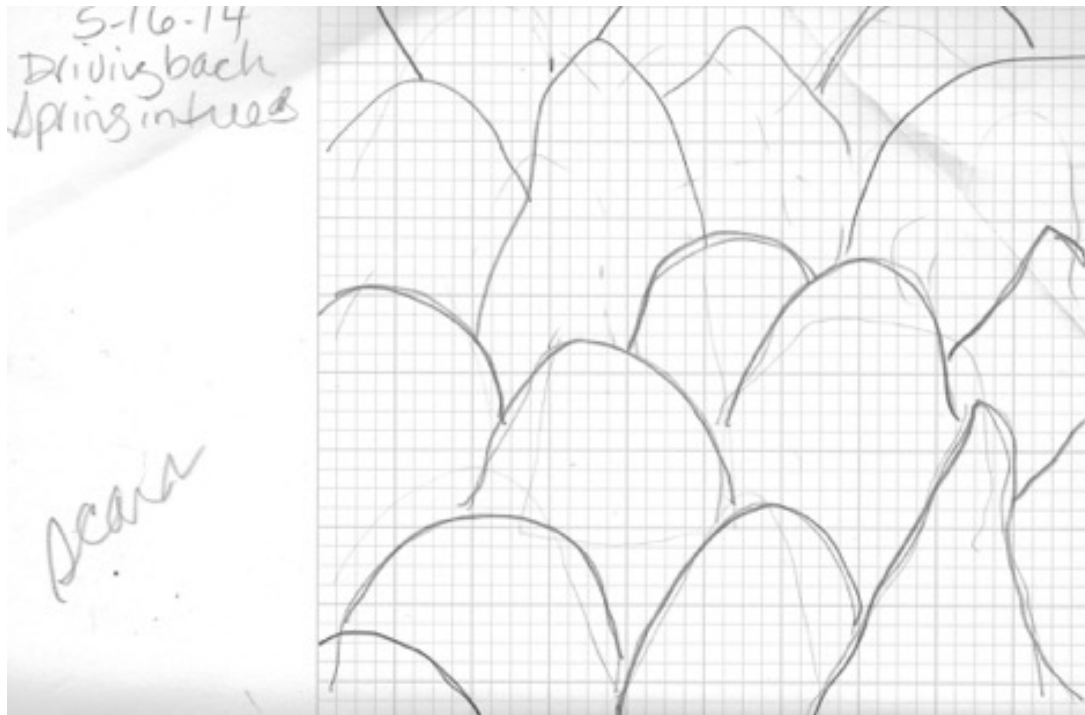
An organized student's color strips were separated using a sorter, bundling each value for ease of selection.

This square is a messy rendition of the tool.

There was no journal entry for May 15, 2014.

An organic design I picked up from trip to New Zealand in 2012 was the graceful curve of a fiddlehead fern.

This square uses dull reds for the motif.



Driving the roads is a good way to observe light. This design is the variety of tree shapes along I79 in the heart of West Virginia.

No journal entry for May 17, 2014.

The vertical rows creating a shape (hill) in a variety of greens depict the lush spring woods.



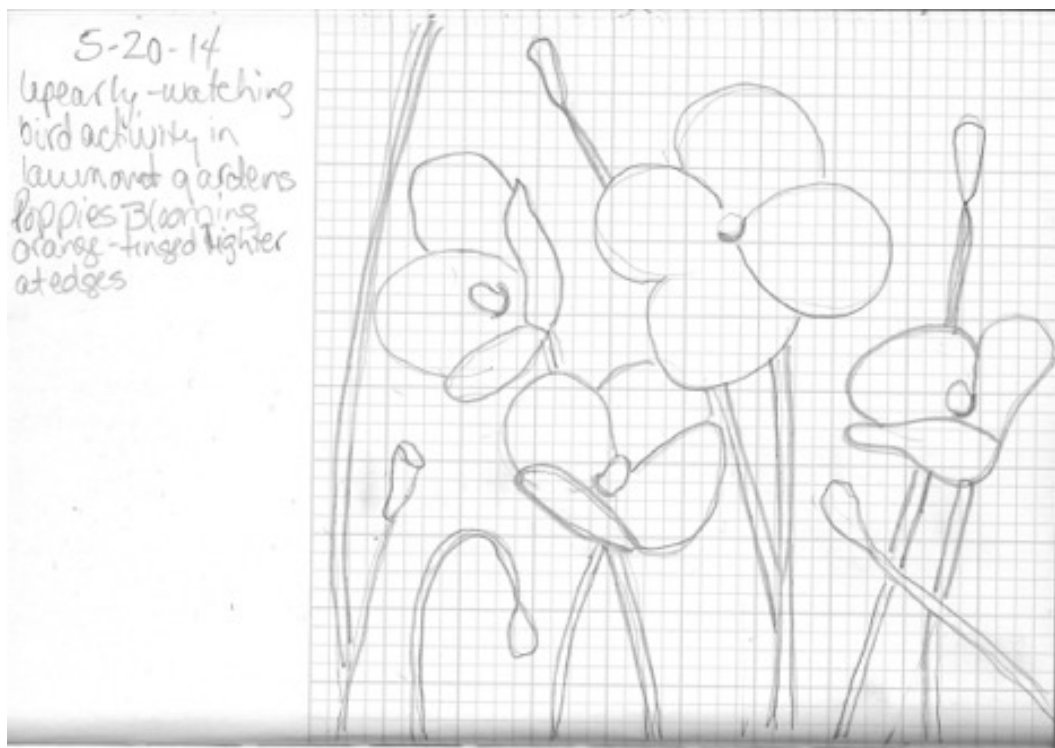
No Journal entry for May 18, 2014.

This time the shape is rounded with some outlining and details. The trees are defined using these lines.

The entry lists the variety of birds spotted on May 19, 2014:

Phoebe  
Mockingbird  
Robin  
Orioles (baltimore and orchard)  
Cedar Waxwing  
and the Thrashers

The subtle breast feathers on a thrasher are the subject for this square.



The California Poppies are delicate flowers. It was fun finding a bead to depict the seed pods. Working the different values in petals was a challenge,

Journal entry May 21, 2014 mentions learning about two more tapestry (rugs) made by the McDonald sisters in the mid 1960's. These are 4' x 6' and in the collection of a former Glenville State College professor and his wife.

By phone discussion they said one has what they were told was unraveled wire from a brass scouring pad as threads.

I used discontinued upholstery fabric samples for the large flower composition. The McDonald sisters worked with recycled fabric quilting, embroidering and hooking their work.

No entry for May 22, 2014

Standing wool is one of the techniques used by the McDonald sisters to create an illusion of hooked loops on their rugs.

This design evolved from a challenge to use several techniques to manipulate fabric creating a flower.

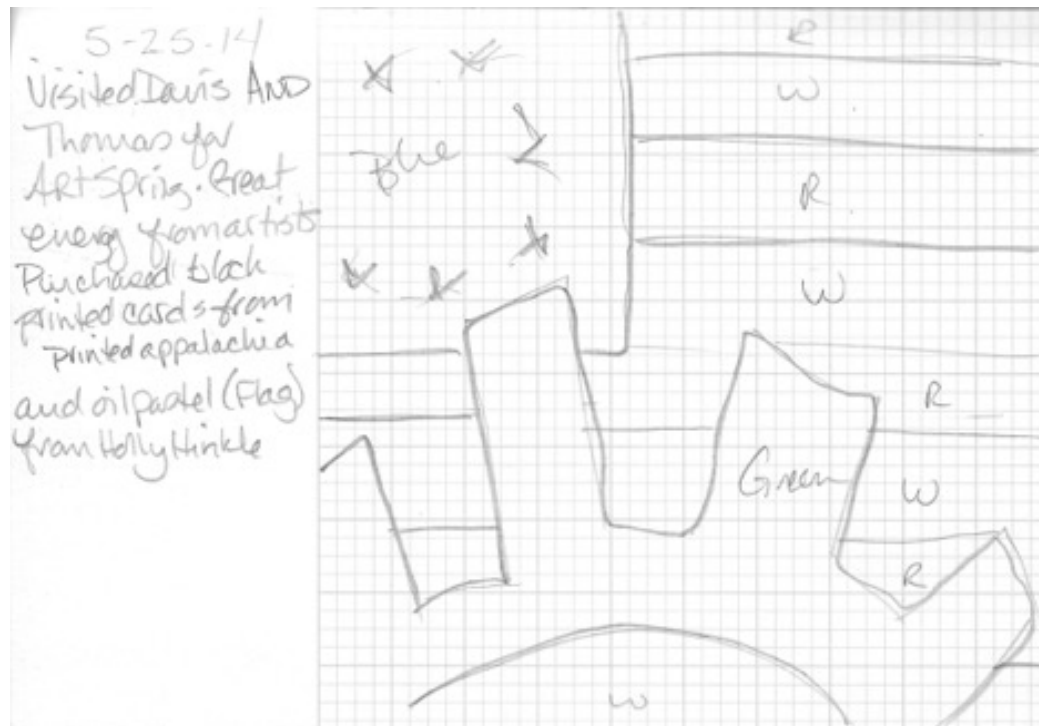


Many flowers have four petals. This collection of phlox were interesting to sketch.

Interpreting the sketch using cut out shapes and embroidery along with painting the background were fun.

May 24, 2014 we met a gentle Border Collie.

The stark black and white markings interested me. Using cottons the loops are stiffer and somewhat ragged like the coarse dog hair.



Taking the boldest elements from painting by Holly Hinkle this design commemorates Memorial Day.



May 26, 2014 the technique is card weaving. I threaded ten cards to create a pattern, reversing it a few times along the strip. The complement was used to hook around the 'strap'.

A second square will become the other side of a small purse when the two are combined.

May 28, 2014 the pattern is hooked mirroring the woven design.

The journal entry for May 27, 2014 is a sketch of a leaf in honor of conversation with Michelle Sirois-Silver and her work.

When I got around to working the square I decided to use geometric shapes with yarns because Michelle uses a variety of materials.

Our conversation centered around making up samples (maquettes) before jumping into a new method and large piece.

May 29, 2014 the entry says EXPERIMENT

I cut up a coffee bag and pinned it to this square. Have been collecting many household scraps (non-perishable) for potential use. Think it is the bold coloring of these bags which attract me.



One of a handful unfinished designs. I am not satisfied with this composition to put the effort into completing it.

Boring yet I am not sure how to add interest. Can you?



