



**Roslyn**

**B.**

**DeBoer**

Summer 2011

I am very intrigued by the prospectus of "Seasonal Palette." It feels like the perfect exhibit for me at this point in my fabric journey. I have been exploring fabric manipulation and texture in my recent work and it is very exciting to me. I love taking fabric and discovering how many different ways I can - scunch it, gather it, pleat it, twist it, whatever - to create depth and texture in my pieces. This translates beautifully into abstract landscapes and that's exactly what the seasonal palette exhibit says to me.

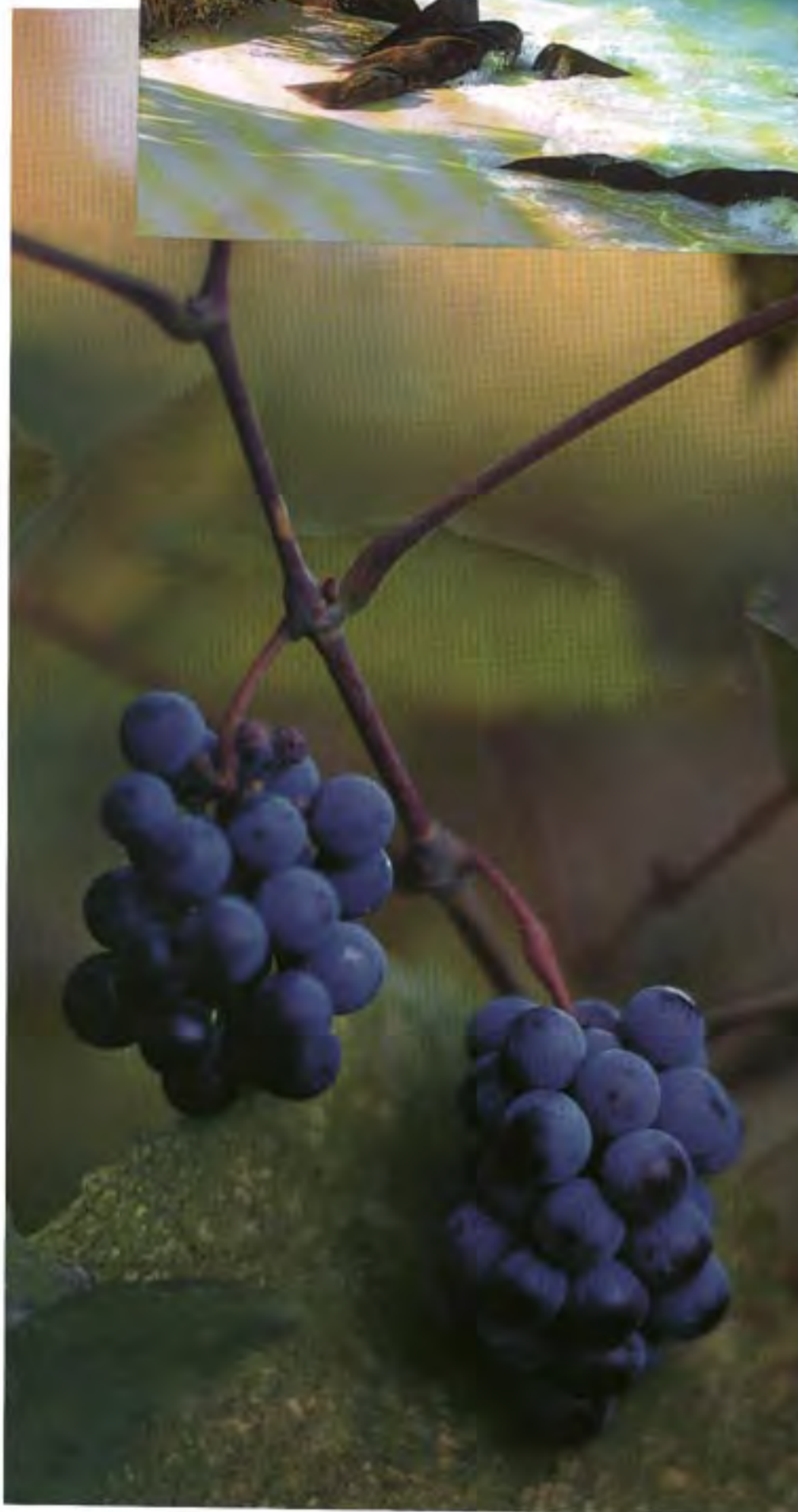
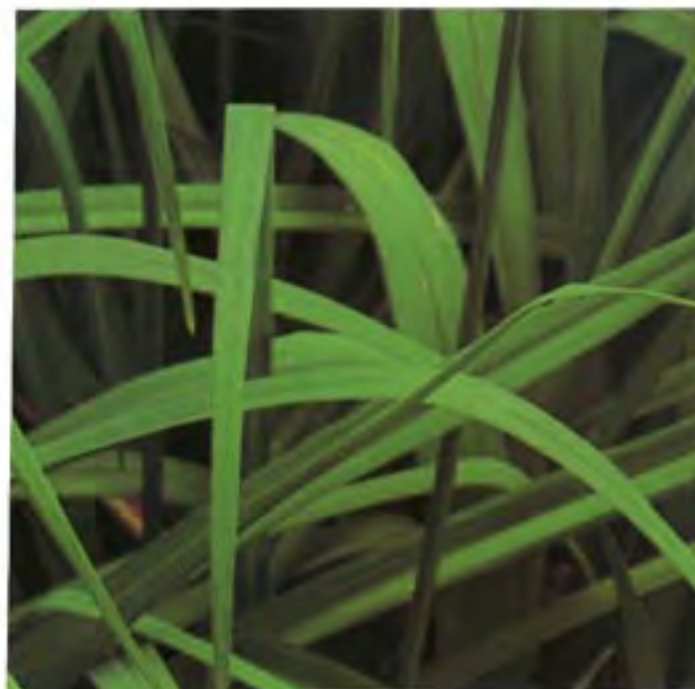
I have four great pieces that showcase my style and that will be a rich jumping-off point for a landscape piece which will expand my horizons and be a valuable addition to this exhibit.

I love to work with blues - turquoises, aquas - all the wonderful water blues. Water is a frequent subject in my work - all the changing colors and moods provide on-going inspiration that keeps me stretching to new heights - or depths!

I think summer would be the perfect season to work in... along with the wonderful "water blues" I could mix lush forest foliage greens?



# Inspiration Photos



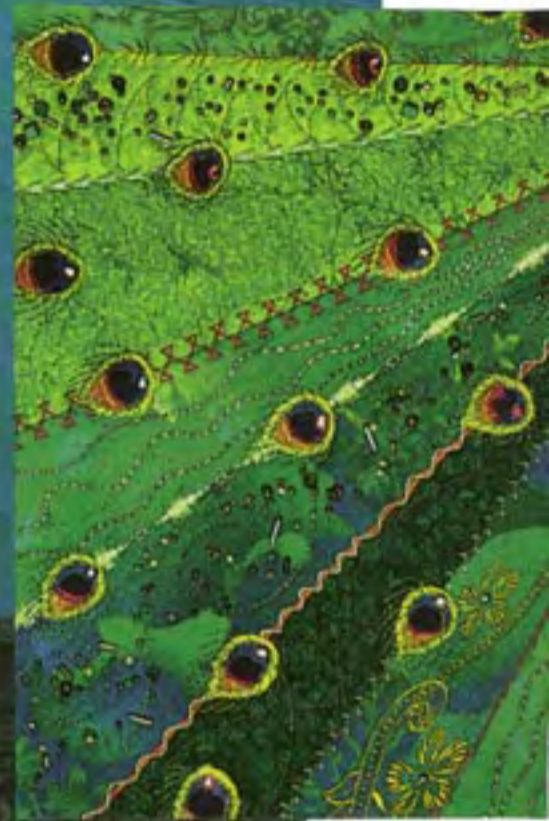
more inspiration →

Color

color



Color



Color



Color

Shape and  
texture



# Entry Portfolio

## 1- Water Triptych



### manipulation techniques:

- sewn tucks
- gathers
- tabs sewn to a base fabric
  - machine-gathered "islands" satin-stitched to base fabric
- pin weaving
- hand pleated silky polyester with scattered beads
- couched yarns + ribbons

- sewn tucks
- gathers
- machine-stitched "islands" satin-stitched to base fabric
  - pleated
- pin weaving
- hand pleated silky polyester with scattered beads
- couched yarns + ribbons

- sewn tucks
- gathers
- machine-stitched "islands" satin-stitched to base fabric
- pleated
- pin weaving
- couched yarns + ribbons

# 2 - Calypso



- machine quilting in X patch
- gathered + corded
- cording
- strip piecing w/ couched yarn
- pieced background w/ hand-stitched yo-yos, echo quilted
- pleating
- machine quilting w/ point stick highlights + inserted cording
- machine-gathered "islands" satin-stitched to base fabric
- row of trapped buttons
- trapped darning strips w/ point stick high-lighting
- Machine quilting, point stick, cording
- Cording
- pleating



# 3- Ordinary Time



- Commissioned by Hope Christian Reformed Church, Oak Forest, IL for the liturgical season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost to Advent (June to Thanksgiving)
- Quadrants hang in this permanent frame installation

← fabric strips wrapped w/ eyelash yarn



← pleating



← cording zig-zagged to a base



machine quilting samples:

← scribble stitching w/ variegated thread



← Garnet stitch



← meander stitching in circular design + shrank (see below)



← stippling on 100% wool felt + shrank on hottest washer + dryer settings  
 loss in shrinking: 20% in width  
 16-17% in height

Criss-cross tucks

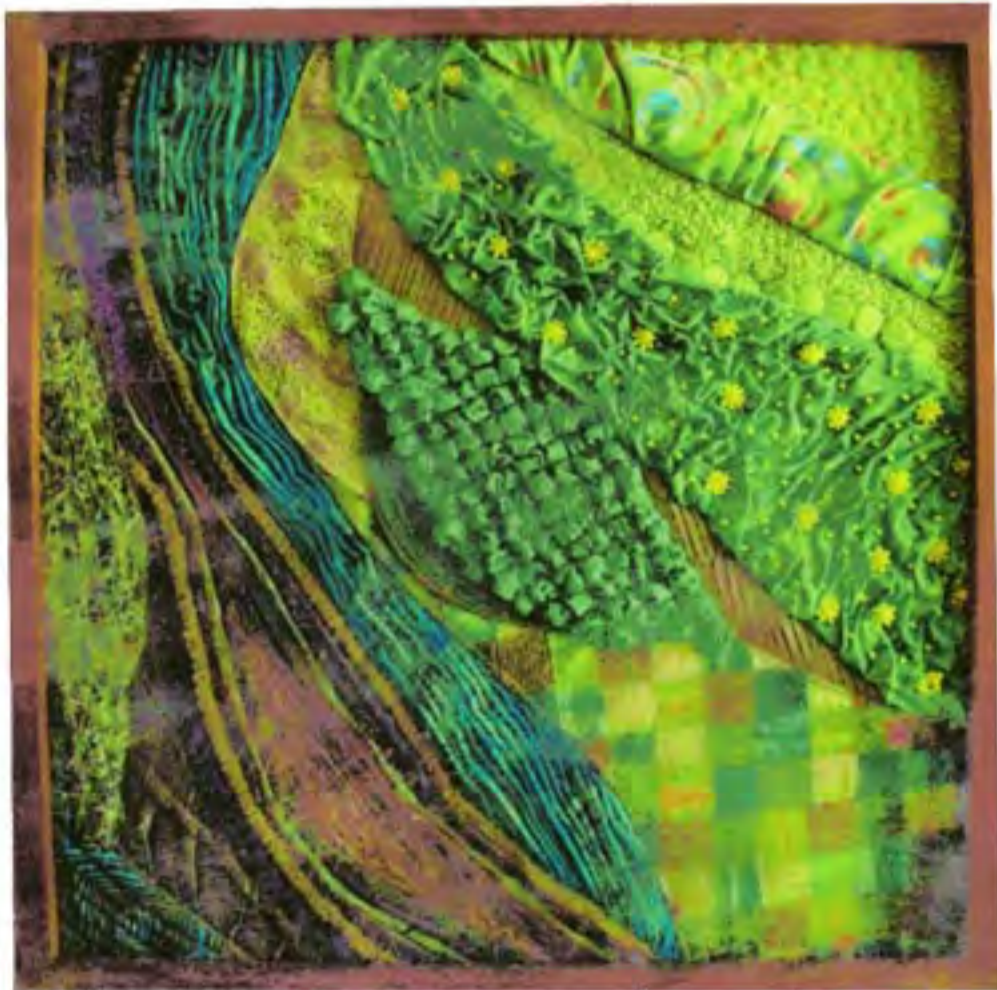




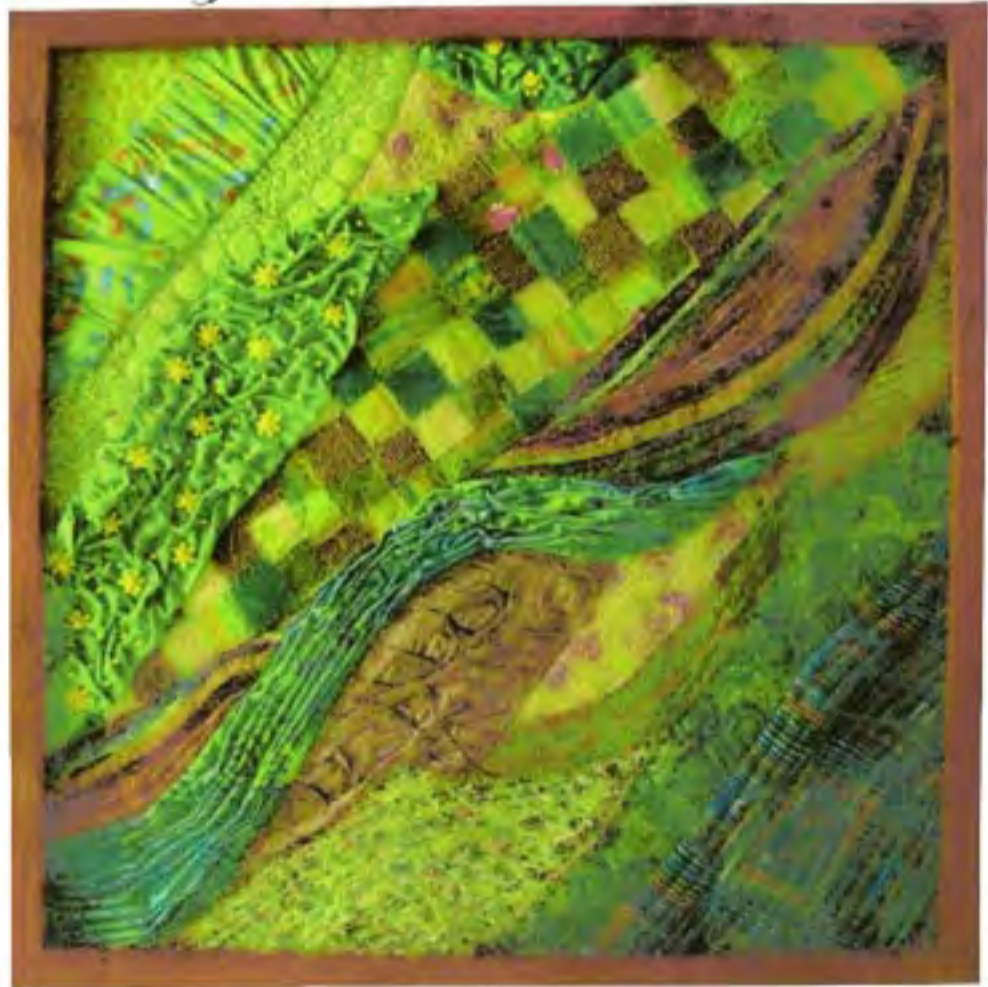
↑ hand furrowing w/  
↓ bead flowers



gathering ↗  
↘ rapped buttons



↑ coding  
↑ couched yarns  
handstitched pleats w/ scattered beads  
checkboard pieced



↑ bubbling (center)  
bubbling sample  
in different fabric



# 4- Undulating



- currently traveling with SAQA's Sense of Adventure exhibit

|| fabric samples



→ this entire piece was built on 100% wool felt, quilted, and then shrunk in hottest wash + dry settings to get a rippling effect.

|| fabric samples



Twisted yarns were whipped-stitched around the outer edge after shrinking

More texture pieces for inspiration & ideas



Beach Texture



Landscape II



Key Lime on my Mind



Island Getaway



Sheer scraps  
trapped under  
netting w/ decorative  
stitching



Sparkled  
netting w/  
couched  
yarns



Sparkled  
netting w/  
couched  
yarns after  
heat distressing



Waterscape, detail

Undercurrents, detail



texture doodles



← Initial sketching  
for Calypso





← tree bark

ie: w/ yarns?





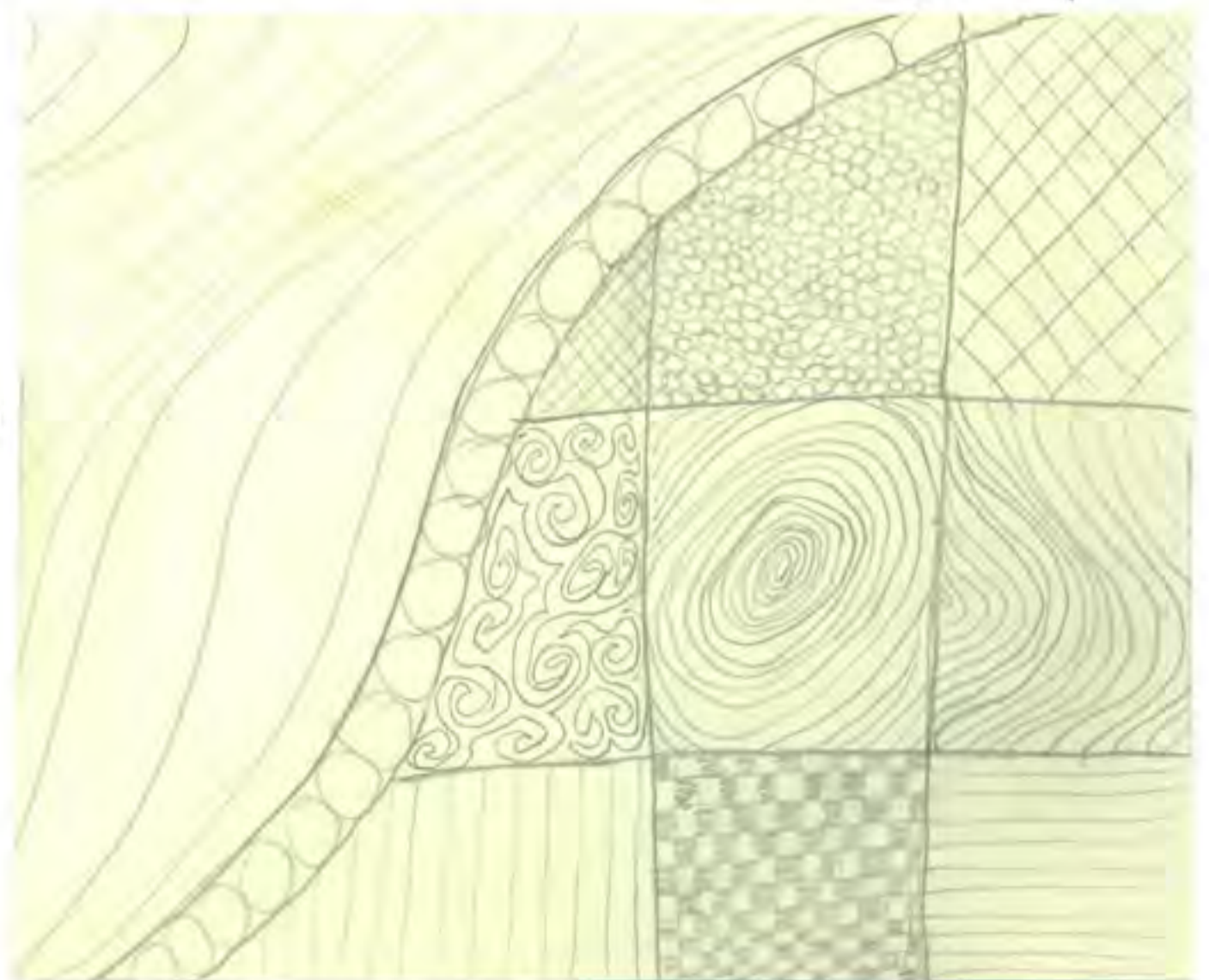
← pebbles

← tree bark or water w/  
eddying spots

trapped buttons

patchwork  
texture "field"

flowing effect →  
- water  
- wind  
- lines in the sand





# Initial sketches for Seasonal Palette

-started drawing on Sept 14, 2011 -- the day I got the acceptance email! Here's hoping I get my request for a "summer" assignment...



too spring? →

9/16/11

# Layout Ideas



this size is proportionally correct to get visual idea of layout. this is a new size + shape for my work.

questions:

→ how to get a good composition in this shape?

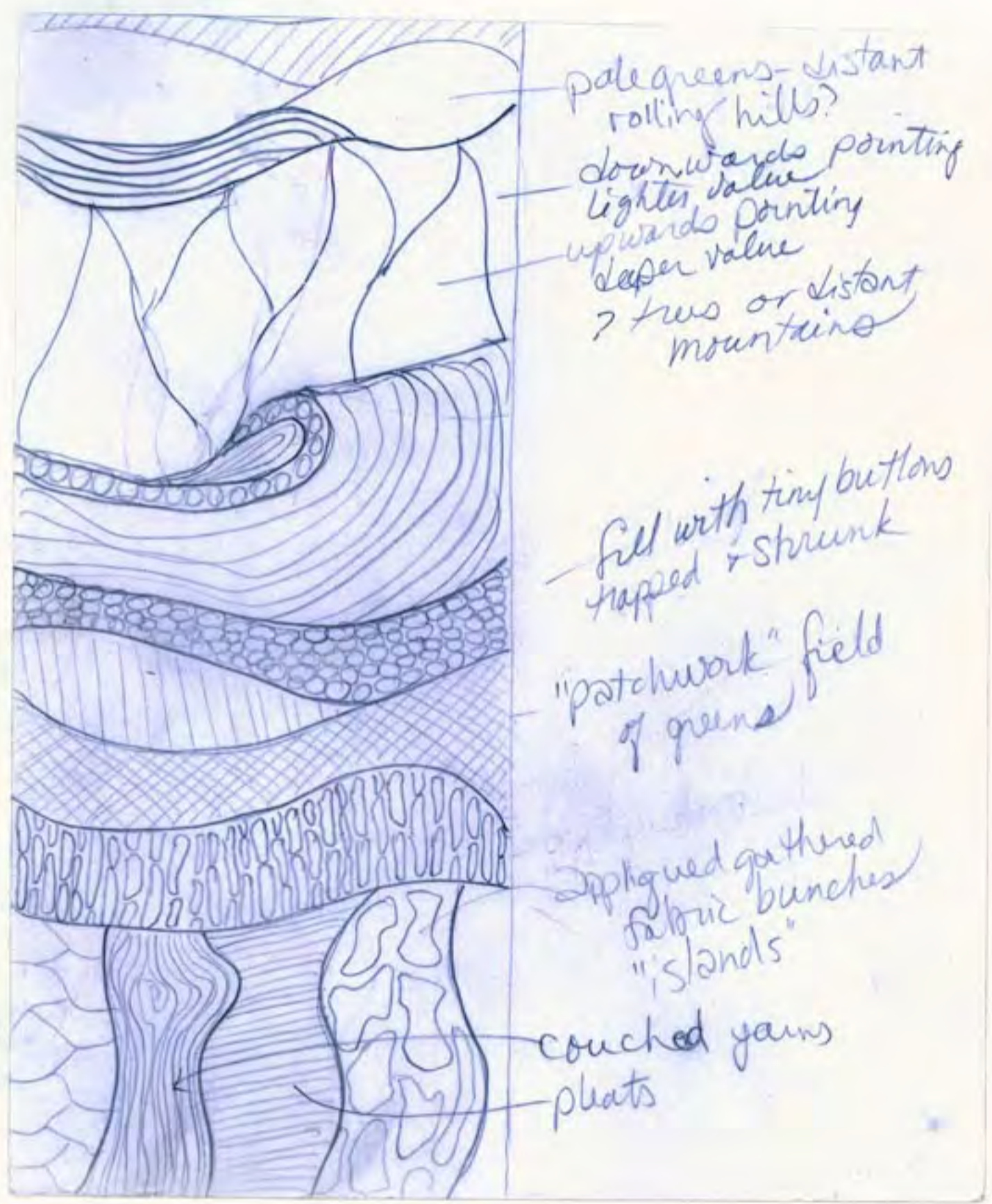
- both horizontal + vertical areas?
- all horizontal fits aided for flow of water + landscape areas - too much horizontal?

→ color flow:

- alternate blue + green areas?
- general flow of dark to light from bottom to top + mix blues + greens within this scheme?

texture doodles w/ specific ideas  
for executing -

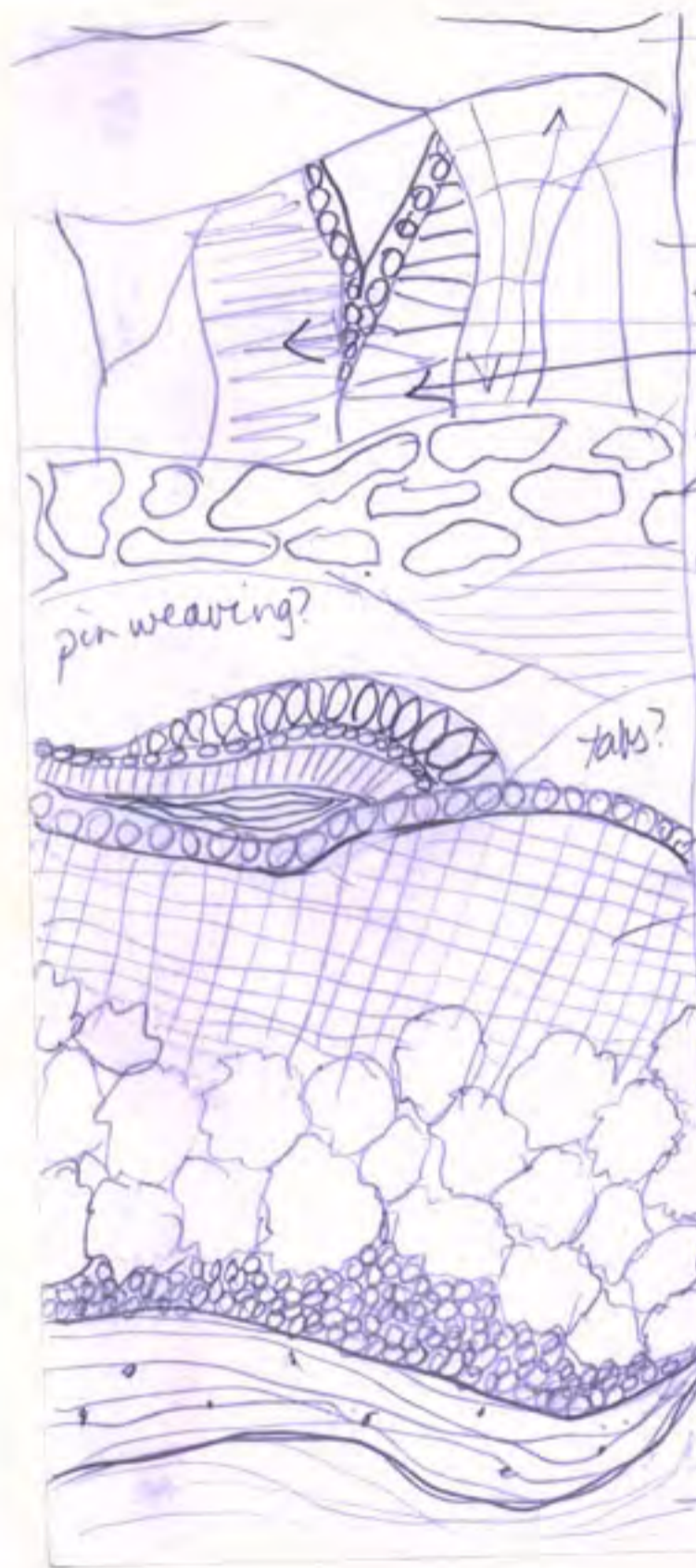
9/16/11



9/18/11

Still hoping for "Summer"

- can I imagine these designs in other seasonal palettes?



blue  
 tucks stitched  
 opposite way  
 opens to side like  
 tail creases - ruffles?  
 crooked strip  
 piecing  
 "stands" tight  
 gathers

water like  
 tuptych

"wave"  
 top +  
 pattern?

sandwiched buttons  
 patchwork fields

"puffed" circles in  
 greens to resemble textures  
 bushes or tree top  
 tiny button field against  
 stitch  
 do pl - gathered  
 water piece w/ beads

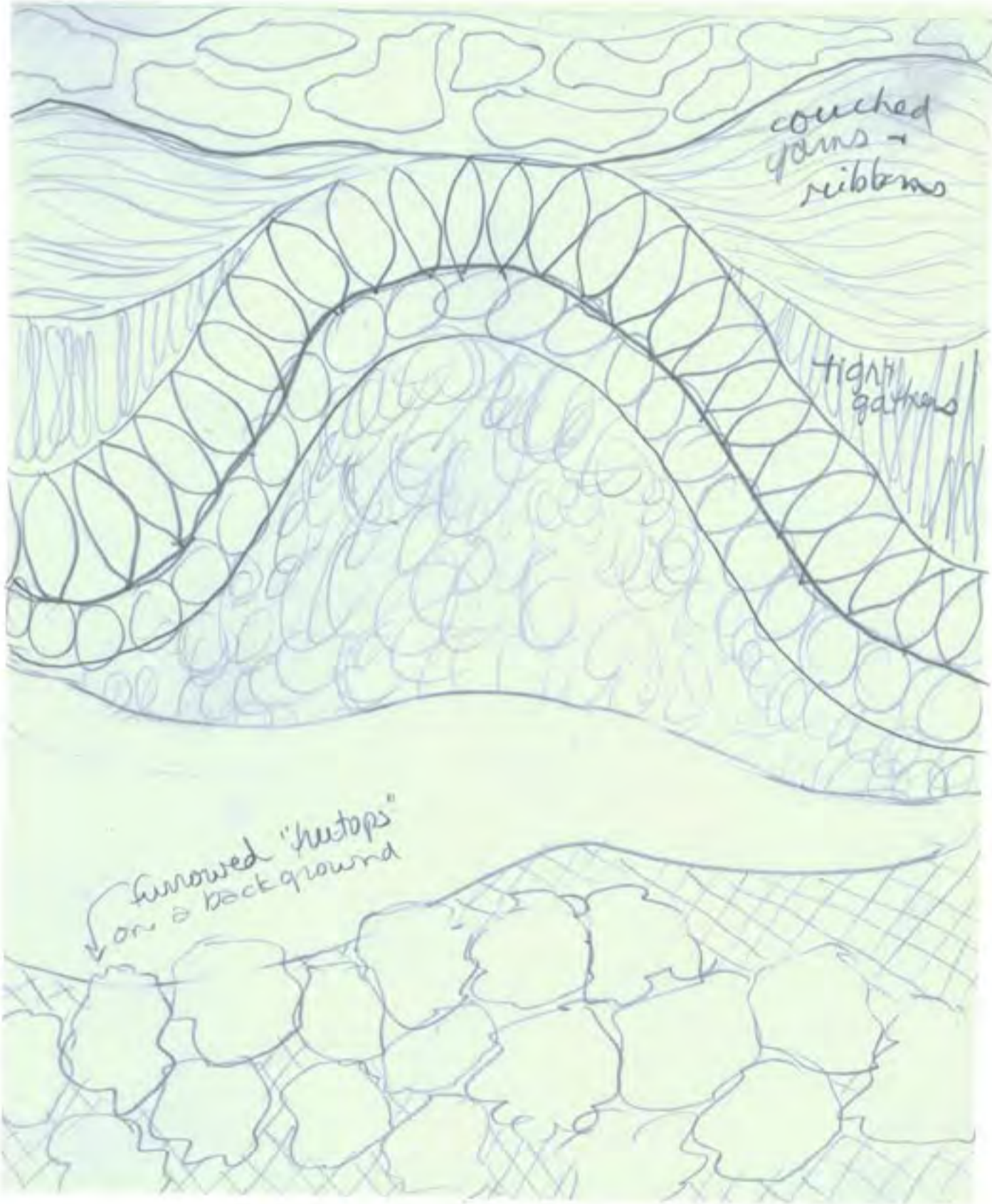
deep teal w/ couched  
 yarn + ribbon

pin weaving?

tabs?

9/18/11

more texture doodles - some ideas  
keep popping up over and over!



9/26/11

→ Hurrah - I am assigned the summer season - exactly what I hoped for and I've been asked to base my piece on "Water Triptych" and "Ordinary Time" which is exactly how I envisioned doing this piece!



Water Triptych



Ordinary Time


\* greens → blue greens → blue turquoise aqua



\* lots of texture!

how many ways can I manipulate a flat piece of fabric to create depth and movement?

# Manipulation Techniques to Consider:

- Couching yarns and ribbons on a base fabric
- gathering - use gentle curves for "flow"
  - tight gathers for fullness
  - less tightly for softer rolling contours
- tucks + pleating: even spacing w/ alternating spaces (done with Clotilde perfect pleater reference D, pg 74ff)
- (reference A, pg 157) → crisp - crossed
- (reference A, pg 123) → needle-formed - by hand
  - ? with scattered beads

- furrowing (reference A, pg 9)  - good for tree tops or bushes as seen from above

- yo-yos - regular or open and distorted  

- small "puffs" - - stuffed, or not
- - round or irregular (ie ovals)

- machine-gathered "islands" on a background (reference A, pg 289)

- cording - smooth or shirred (reference A, pg 195 - 203)

- wrapped strips of fabric (about 2" wide) wrapped w/ yarn (reference C, pg 54ff)

- narrow ruffles - sewn in circles (ie: sunflower look) (reference A pg 51)
- eyelash
- smoother

- coiled - (ie: seashell look)
  - meandered - (ie: snake)
- (reference A, pg 56 and 59)

- North American smocking - flower pattern, irregular + small for a field of flowers (reference A, pg 141)

- quilting patterns - garnet stitch
- stippling - - possibly shrunken on 100% wool felt
- meandering - - also could be shrunken
- scribble stitching

- patchwork "field" - (reference B, pg 100)

- trapping on 100% wool felt + shrunken -- buttons  
(reference B, pg 78 ff) washers  
boning strips

- fabric, thread, + yarn scraps under netting

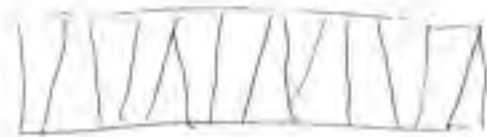
- tabs - overlapping in off-set rows  
(reference A, pg 223)



- strip-piecing - various widths + fabrics

- Couch yarn over seams

or - applique yo-yos and/or puffs



- fuse 2 fabrics together, cut shapes, attach in groups or layers  
(reference C, pg 48-49)

- fuse "veggie bags" to base fabric

- overlay sheers - gathered or not

- heat distress

- "bubble" fabric thru cookie-caking rack squares (reference D, pg 78 to 80)

- pin weaving - regular (reference D, pg 44 ff)

- variation: yarn/ribbon wrapped over strips of scraps, zig-zag stitch tightly, side by side, to a base fabric  
(reference C) ← pg 54 ff

- weave flat fabric tubes over base fabric - (reference A, cover photo)  
- vary shades of fabrics + wrappings

Some of these techniques I've picked up over years of sewing and quilting. Others, I got from the following books:

A. The Art of Manipulating Fabric by Colette Wolff -- this book is a huge treasure chest of texture ideas!

B. Stitching to Dye in Art Quilt (Color, Texture, and Distortion) by C. June Barres

C. Three-dimensional Embroidery by Janet Edmonds

D. Exploring Textile Arts by Creative Publishing International



10/29/11

I was walking along Clark Street today, just north of Fullerton in Chicago & came across an establishment with a tall narrow facade of hammered copper. The design was basically flowing horizontal shapes - exactly as I have been contemplating for my Seasonal Palette design. I have been wondering if such a design would work in a tall narrow shape and it is just as I have been imagining! I am encouraged to proceed with my "flowing horizontal design" plan.



Dec 2011,

Ideas are perking for my Seasonal Palette piece. I'll be ready to go right after the holidays.

the plan:

- start w/ a general drawing based on  
Copper facade photos

- gather color palette:

- batiks + cottons

- polyesters, silks, sheers

- upholstery, wools

- buttons, beads, yarns, ribbons

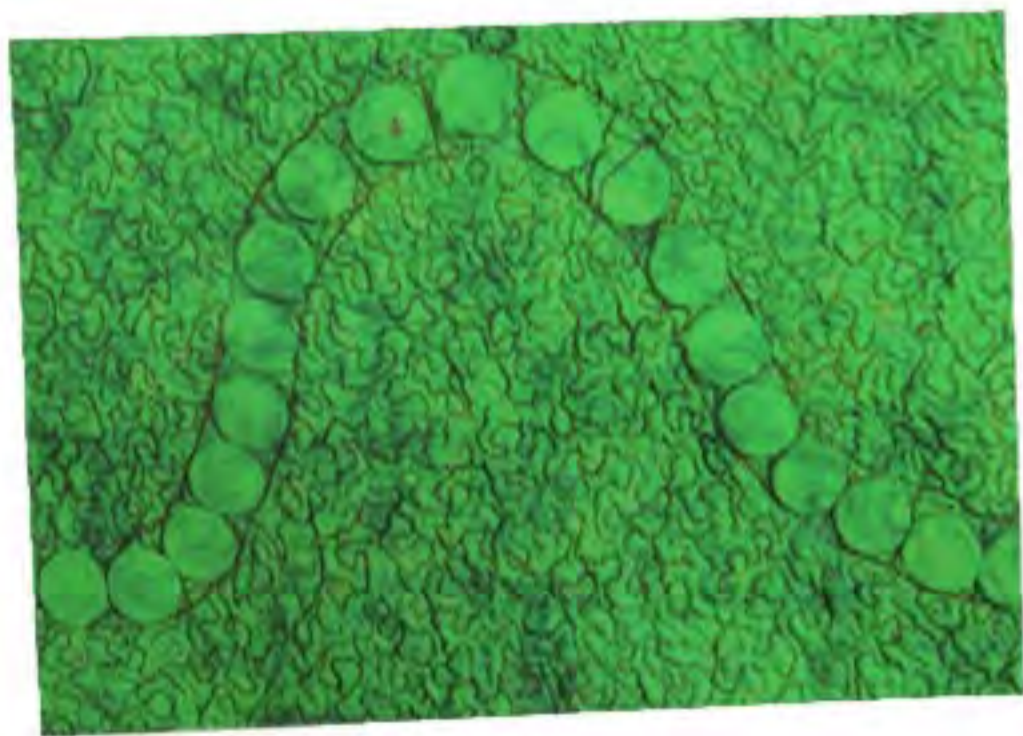
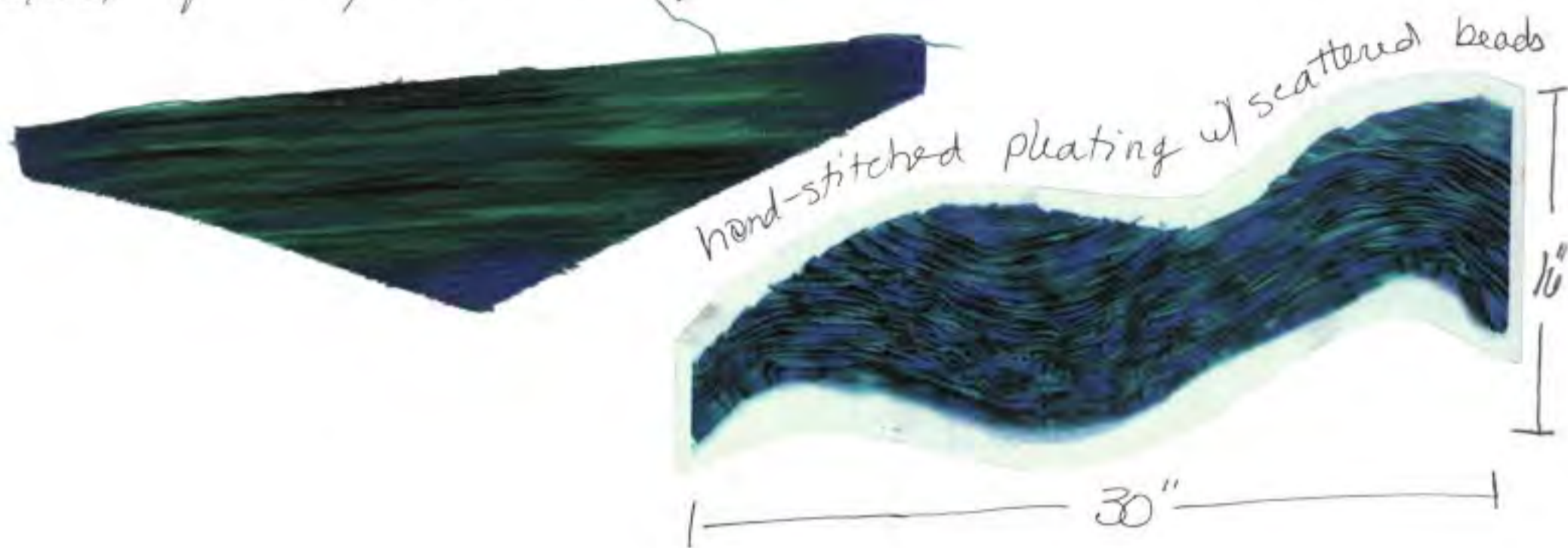
- "make fabric" = use fabric manipulation techniques to create texture; I have begun to think of this word as a verb as well as a noun - - "to texture" is a process of fabric manipulation for me; texture (as a noun) is the result!

→ many texture pieces will have to be made as I go to insure a good flow of colors with enough contrast to distinguish individual areas when seen from a distance. Some of these pieces, maybe a lot of them, will not make it into the final piece.

- incorporate small details for interest & surprise with close-up viewing.

1/11/12

I made this piece of hand-stitched pleating last spring. It did not work into the piece I was making at the time. It seems to be the perfect start for my seasonal palette.



8" x 15"

another previously-made piece of texture that could work into Seasonal Palette.

Stippling + trapped buttons on 100% wool felt + shrunk

general layout plan:



Some pieces extend across the piece from side to side; some areas have 2 or 3 different areas/textures

"water piece" - start working outward from here. placement may shift up or down as the whole piece unfolds.

area for couched yarns + ribbons; in dark colours to anchor the piece.

01/12/12 ✨ The Color Palette ✨



batiks + other cottons



left: wools + upholstery fabrics  
right: polyesters, silks, +  
sheers



yarns

01/13/12

another inspiration photo!

← my husband took this photo of a stained glass in the chapel at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN where he was for a conference.

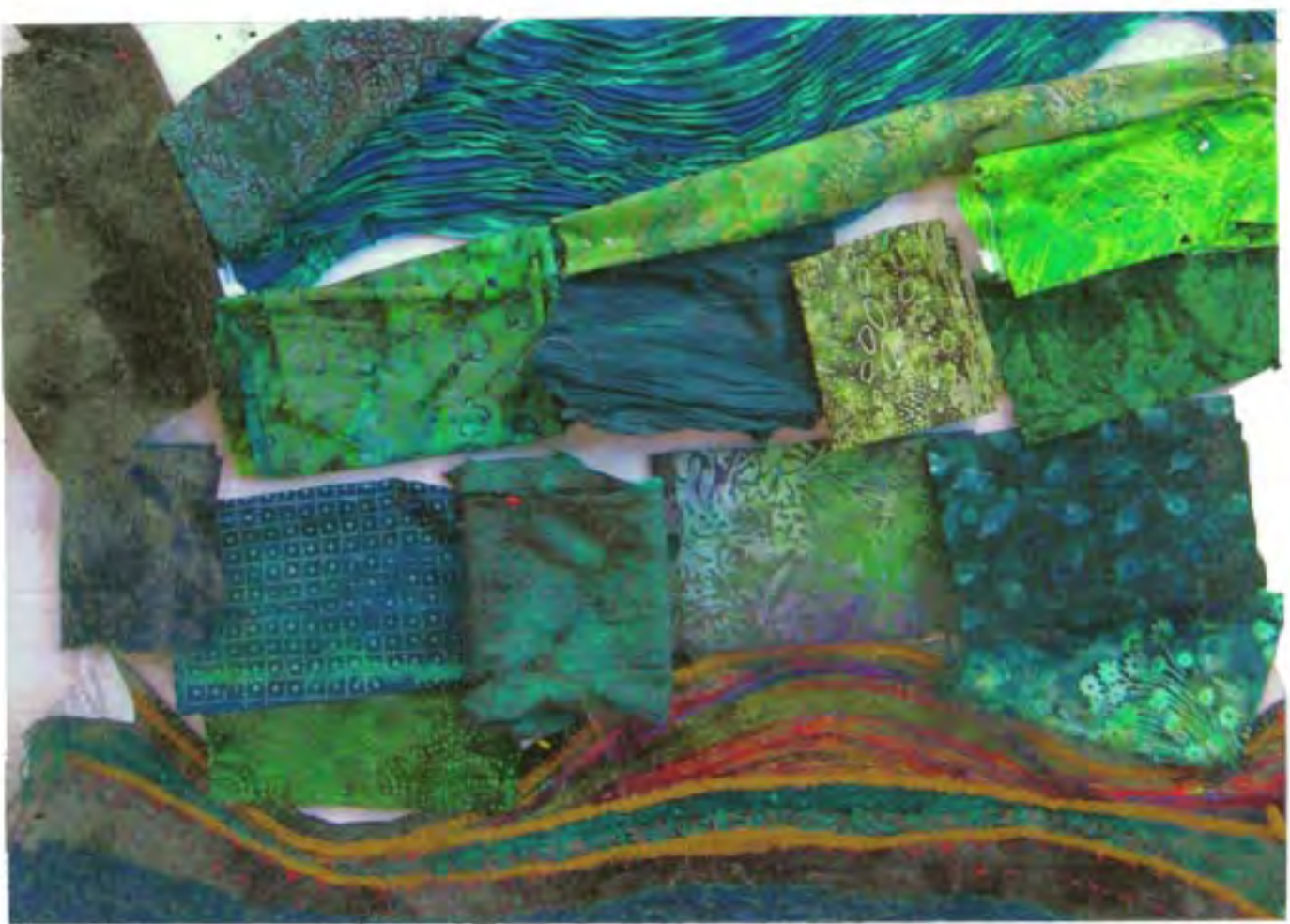


- starting at the bottom with an area of couched yarns and narrow ribbons



01/14/12

- Some ideas for fabrics + colors

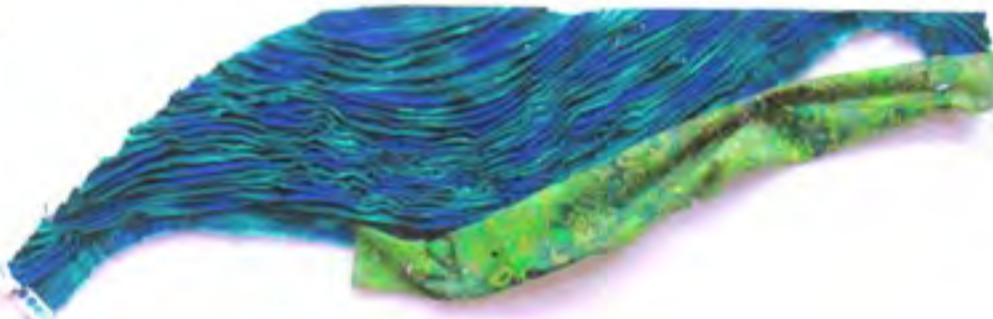


01/15/12

hand-stitched pleating with scattered beads



Sheer gathered and overlaid on dark green.



pleating



is there enough contrast in this lower area?



bubbling

in center



cross-cross tucks



Some different fabrics  
"textured" to see if they  
help define the lower left  
area —

North American  
Smocking in a  
Random flower  
pattern



a different fabric  
"bubbled"



3 fabrics too similar in color

01/16/12

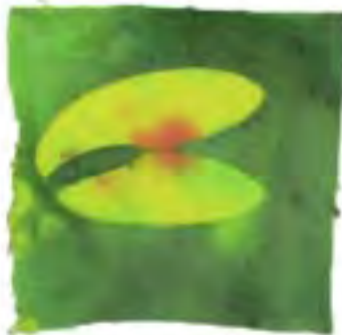
making the patchwork "field"

the palette

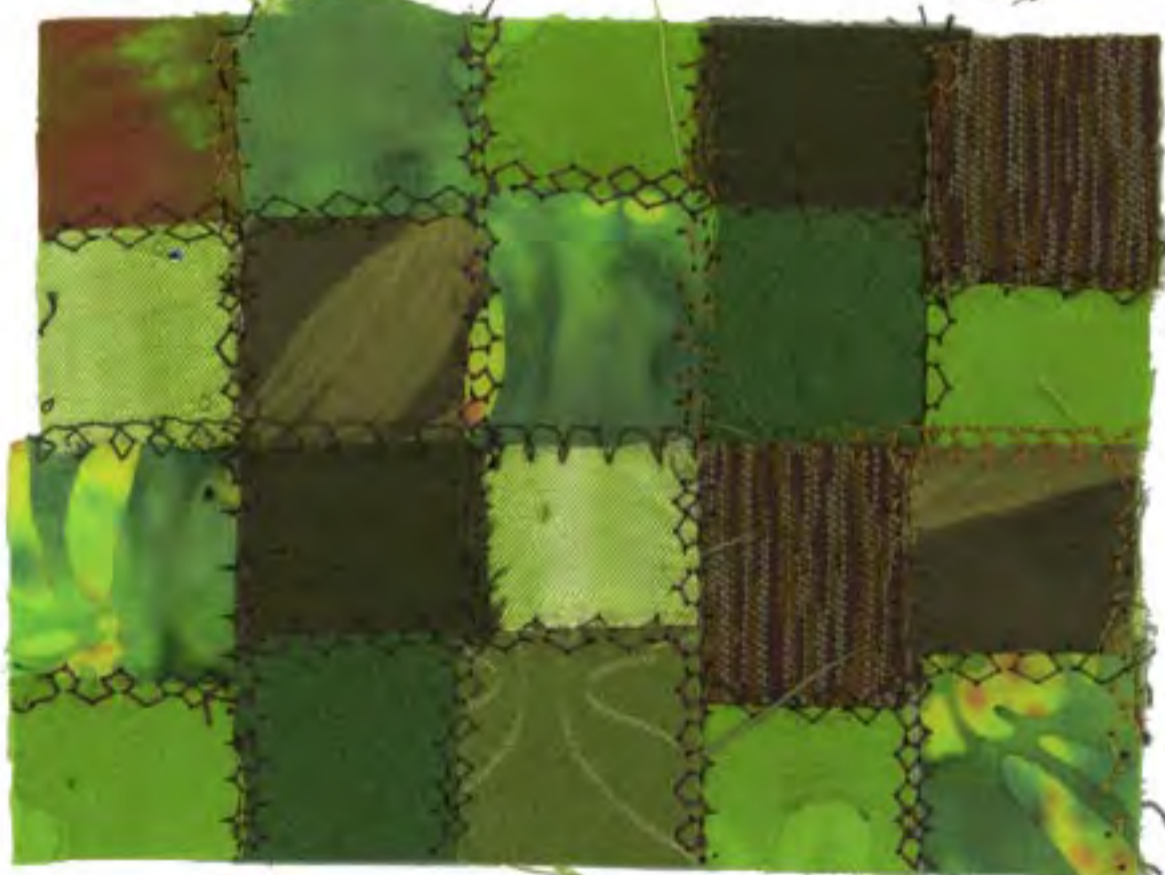
embossed  
cotton  
grass-green felt  
dyed silk scarf  
2 silky poly  
2 uphoistery  
fabrics  
2 poly-cottons



Varied fabric  
weights as  
well as  
shades for  
added visual  
interest.



cotton batik  
added after the  
photo was taken



← the final  
result

01/17/12

trapping buttons  
between 100% wool  
felt and cotton top  
fabric.



trapping a million  
buttons... well,  
maybe half a  
million!

- put the feed dogs down,  
take off the presser  
foot; and be very,  
very careful!

- have lots of spare  
needles around ;)





This took about 8 hours to do (over several days, cuz its too tedious to do in 1 sitting).

I started with  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd of fabric (18" x 44"). After trapping the buttons it was 17" x 41". After shrinking, the whole piece was 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 35". After shrinking you can see color changes due to the different button colors - very unexpected result. How cool is that!



empty cases from all the broken needles used to trap the buttons w/ a presser foot!

01/21/12



leafy sheer  
over cotton



love the texture in  
this fabric

good textures; but  
even with the smocking  
piece + new bubbled  
fabric, its still too  
dark overall



patchwork field

auditioning  
"free top" fabrics  
→ use narrowing  
technique

looks like a  
beach ☺

changed the  
middle fabric - its  
better but still not  
enough contrast

fabric strips wrapped  
with heavy threads or  
cording + sewn w/  
a zig-zag stitch  
to a base fabric



fabric strips  
wrapped with  
eye-lash yarn -  
looks rather  
pink - not sure  
that's going  
in!

not sure about  
the striped effect



Another shear over  
cotton

← this is not an  
improvement!

01/23/12



Now we're getting somewhere! This re-arrangement is an improvement

Maybe this needs to change - something lighter?

WAY too much blue →

what to do here? →

try gathered sheer here to separate reddish hues →

much better →



well, that  
did separate  
the reds  
but...  
this piece  
reads  
autumn  
not  
summer -  
it has to go!



better

but...

now is this too  
much green?





01/25/12

- put blue back  
in here  
try an area  
of tabs



my eye gets  
bogged down here



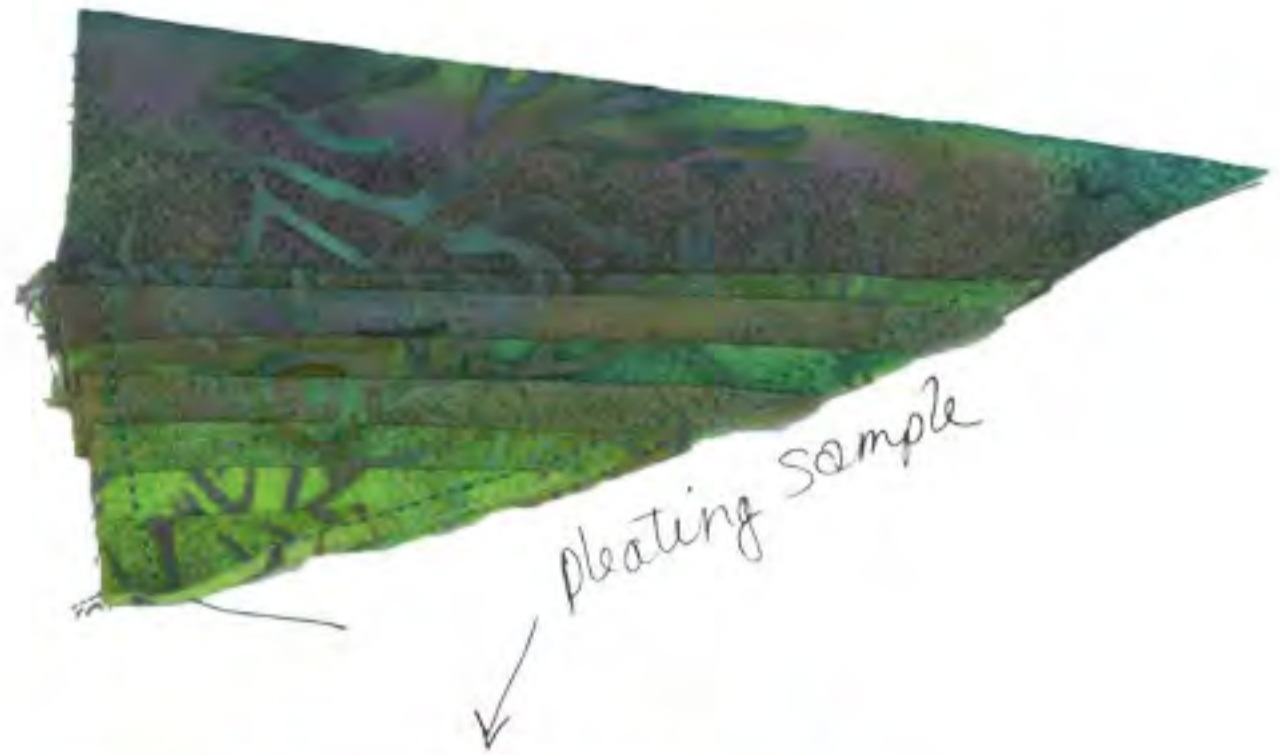
cut green  
for background  
of trees



- switching these 2  
helps draw the  
eye around the  
piece

- this is too much  
it will be smaller  
and covered with  
tree tops; I think I  
want it to stretch  
from side to side

01/24/12



this is not quite  
right yet →  
not enough  
contrast with  
the pieces below  
+ to the right -

now, I'm questioning  
← the top portion of this  
couched yarn area!  
is this too "autumn" as  
well?

I'm finding one change creates a domino  
effect!

01/27/12



sample of some "heatops" →



← Swapped these 2

← Tried covering up the reddish

→ this is better  
good contrast w/ surrounding areas

← Could gather this

← this might look good corded

← area - I think this is better.

I need to mull over these changes for awhile.

Maybe I need to change my focus + work on developing the top while I live with the changes at the bottom for awhile...

I spent 1/2 a day swapping fabrics in and out. Folding into different shapes, looking for an arrangement that had interest + a balance of colors.



01/29/12

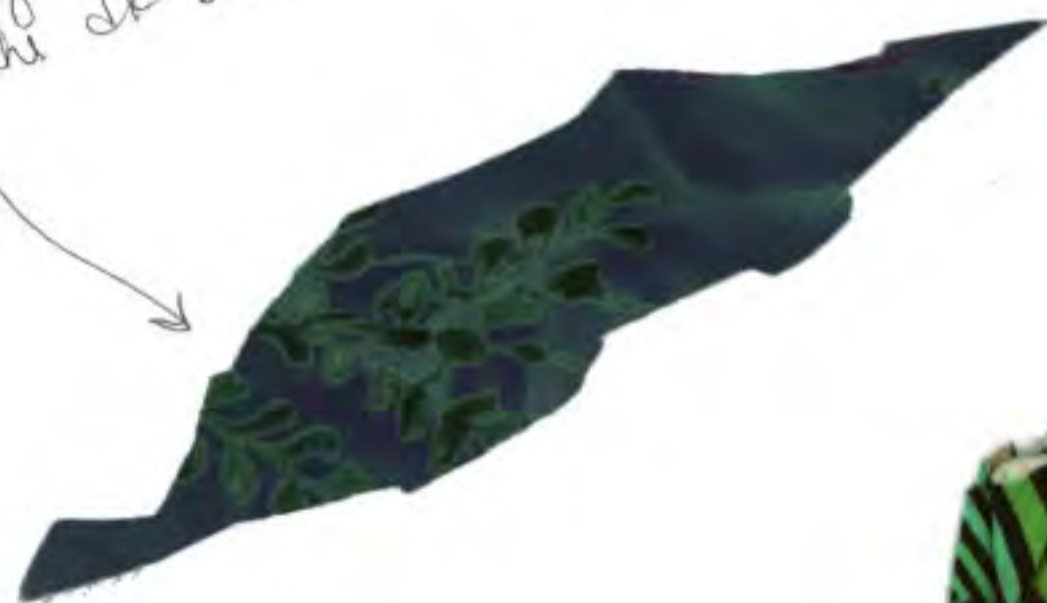
I think the bottom area is almost there...

going to do criss-cross tucks in this fabric + replace the initial tucks with this

going to take this fabric out. I think an aqua that goes all the way across just above the dk blue yarn

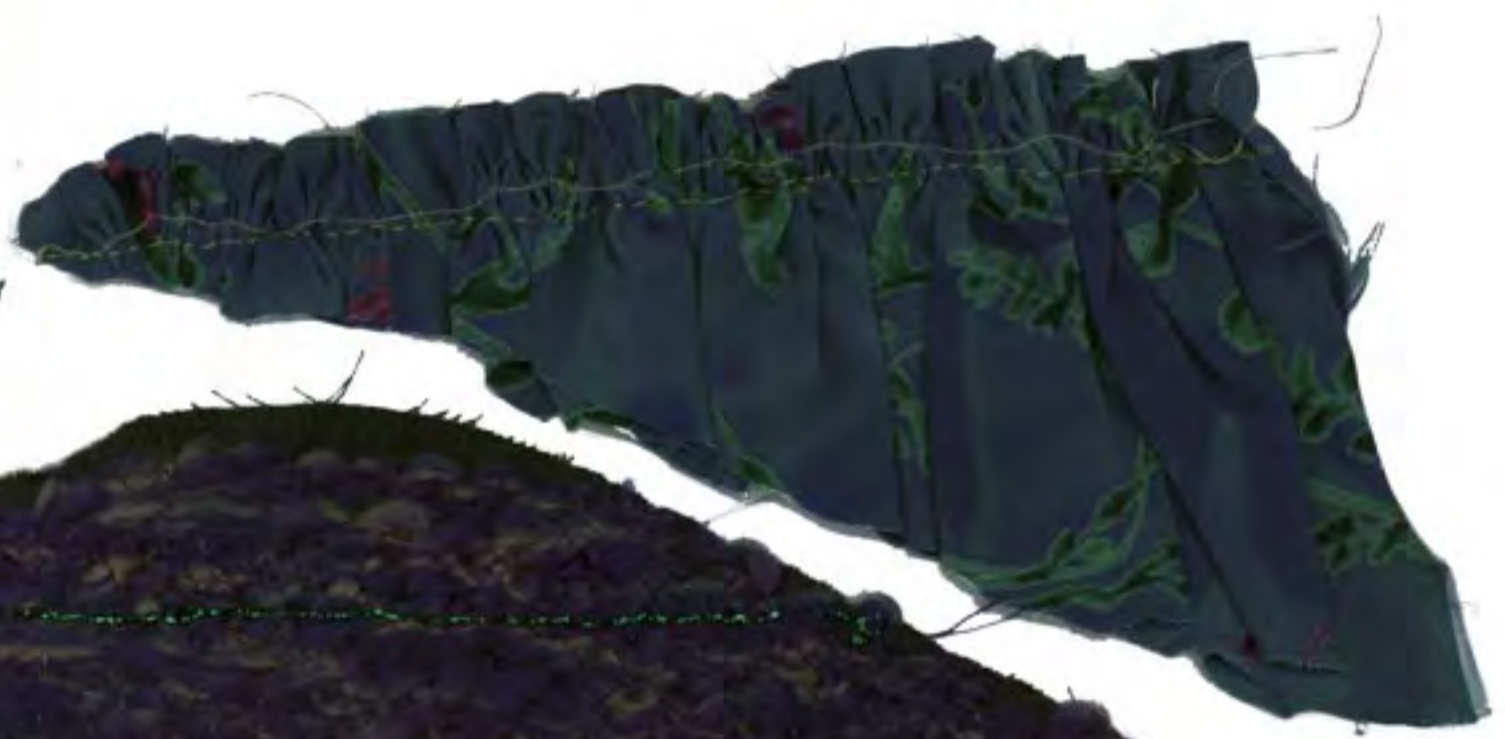


← This looks good with cording - lots of lines + movement





The new cross-cross fuck texture



I like this combo  
the poly picks up the  
sparkly yarns



01/30/12



one small change I think — add to right end  
of wrapped fabric strips with lighter  
fabrics so this texture doesn't end  
with dark in this corner

then — ready to commit + sew this bottom  
section together!



pinning the textures together, adjusting curves



this is all one piece now! I'm pleased with it. Good call on getting lighter greens into the

I'm thinking maybe a row of lighter beads along this seam to enhance this curve.

right corner of the wrapped fabric strips!



01/31/12

perhaps more  
fathers? -

fabric strips wrapped with  
eyelash yarn to be zig-zagged  
side by side on a base fabric

the plan here is  
couched yarns

I love the way this fabric  
looks bubbled

Corded area w/  
gentle curves



a base  
of "water"  
fabric  
with  
gathered  
"islands"  
satin-  
stitched  
across

I pleated this fabric  
on the diagonal



The "button beach" is the only area of tan/brown. I need  
to add more brown areas to tie this in.

02/02/12



drawing the  
gentle curves  
for the  
corded area  
on an  
interfacing  
base



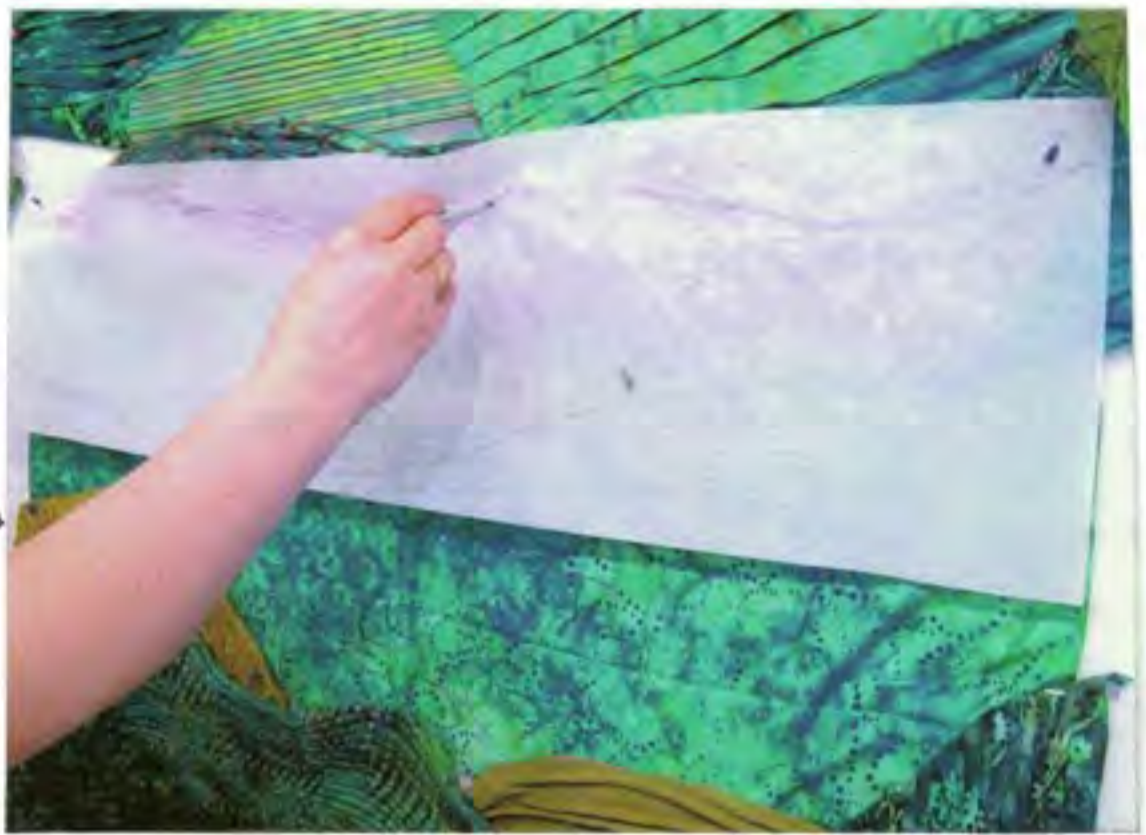
love the movement of line + the  
color changes across this texture!

02/04/12

Here I'm drawing a shape for a brown area that I'm calling "the boardwalk"



onto fusible interfacing - glue side up



meanwhile, I've been busy with 2 other small areas that I consider "browns" even tho they are more olive. My definition of "green" in this piece is

more grass green so I think these 2 upholstery pieces I found help tie in the "button beach."

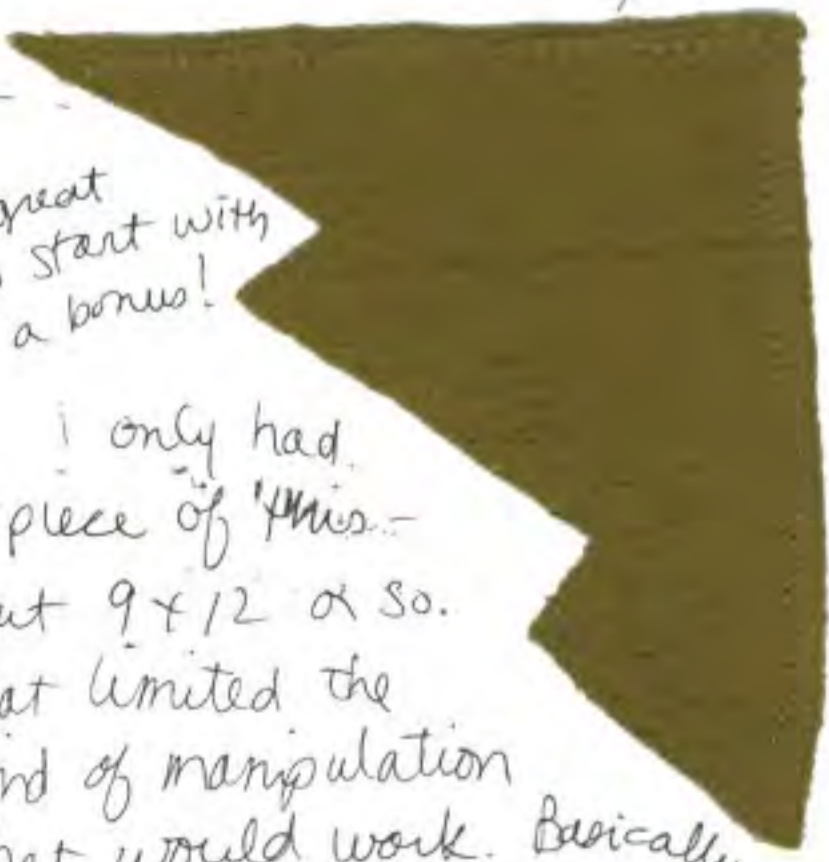
a peek of the corded piece pinned in place



Here I serged strips of this fabric & wore them over a base of the same fabric.

This has great texture to start with so that was a bonus!

I only had 1 piece of this - about 9 x 12 or so. That limited the kind of manipulation that would work. Basically I felt I only had 1 option - I did hand-pleating (as in the large water piece) but did a more random & more spaced design.



I chose this fabric because I like the texture and the sheen. I also think the design will translate into a wood grain look.



← sewing strips of varying widths + angles to a base



← hard press each strip after sewing to save on tips to the ironing table! 😊



Here I couched yarn along each seamline



← Iron the fusible interfacing to the back  
and cut it out →



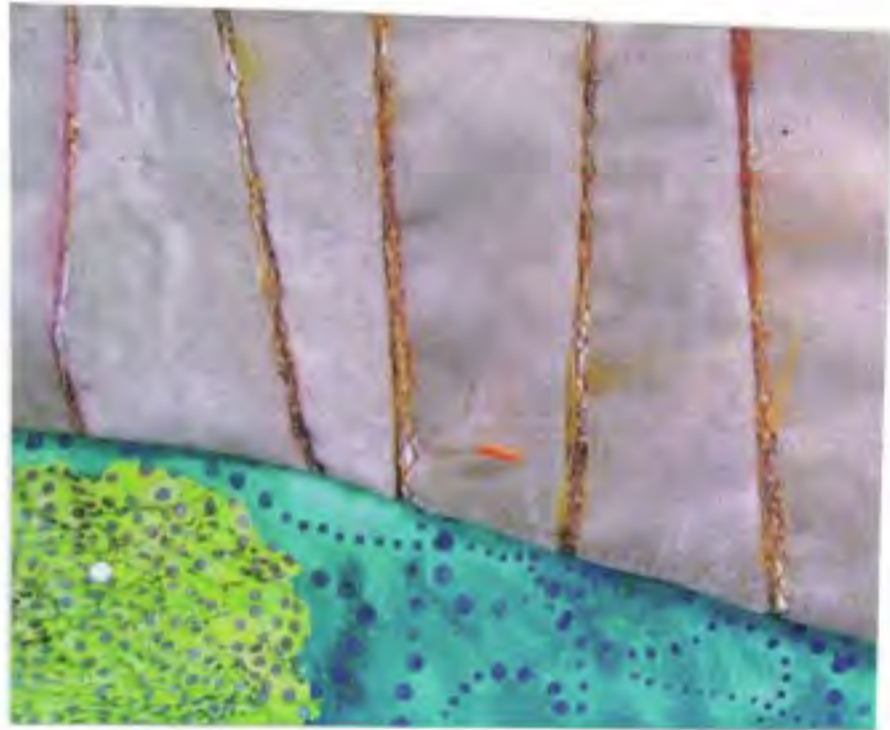
and put it in place —

and — I don't like it! The sheen I liked initially is too reflective and it reads lighter than I want it to —

Soooo —————→

Start the whole process over  
with another fabric  
+ yarn!

this is much  
better!



love the suede surface  
in this one; also love the  
sparkle in this yarn - I  
think of sunlight sparkles.

\* horizontal tucks (on far side);  
maybe some stitching (vertical)  
to hold some tucks up and some  
down - ie waves

\* much too wide (high) but  
I like the bottom curve  
\* some possible "island" fabrics;  
should they be the same or a variety?  
\* a better view of the woven  
area and the corded area  
\* the patchwork field is smaller  
but I think that's ok  
\* been making "tree tops" in the  
evenings when I watch TV



02/05/12

So here's what it looks like right now:



middle

bottom



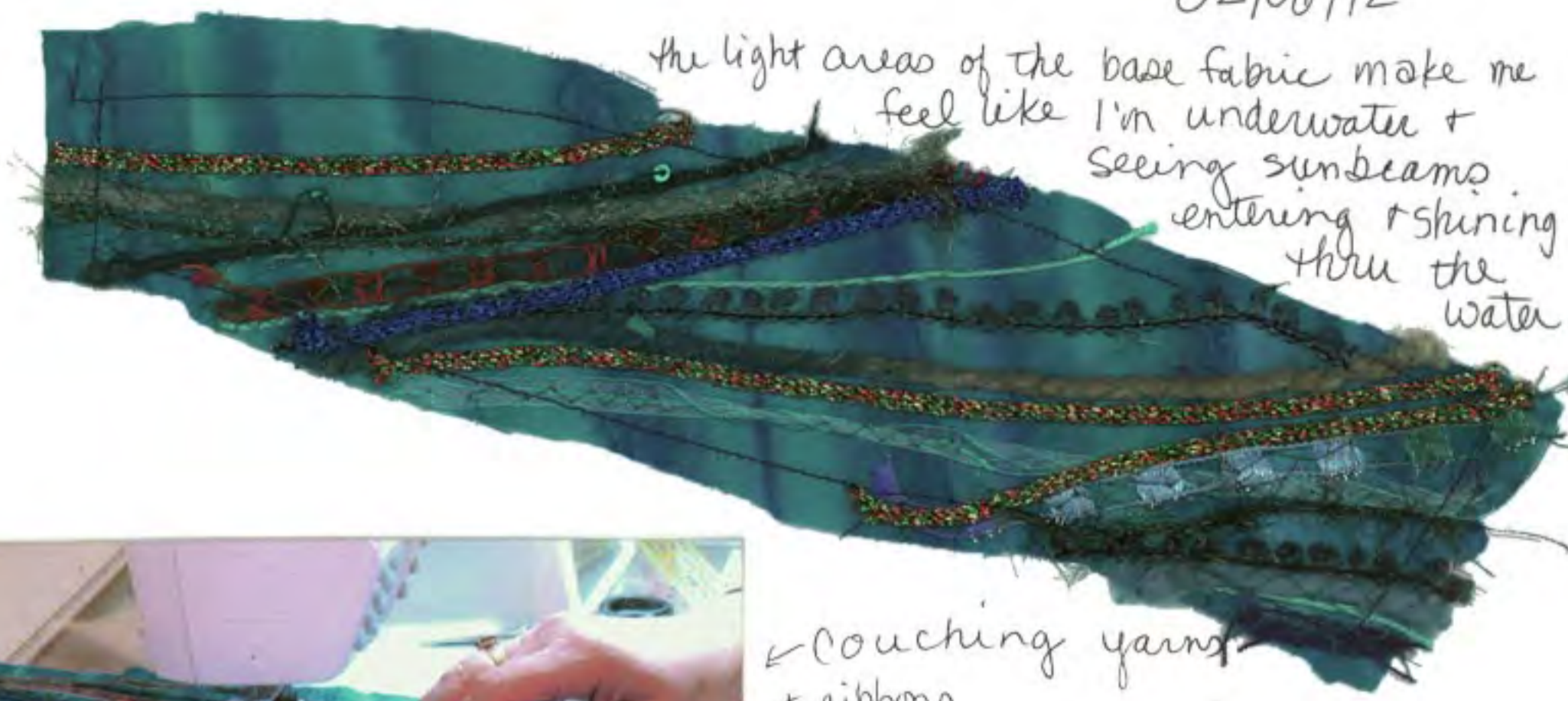
The bottom area is sewn together and I'm really liking the way the middle is developing. The "tree tops" have toned down that bright green base fabric - this area is getting shaped by the surrounding areas.

The water/island area is a nice shape. Here there is a variety of fabrics for the islands. This might be too busy. I will try using all one fabric to see if that looks better.

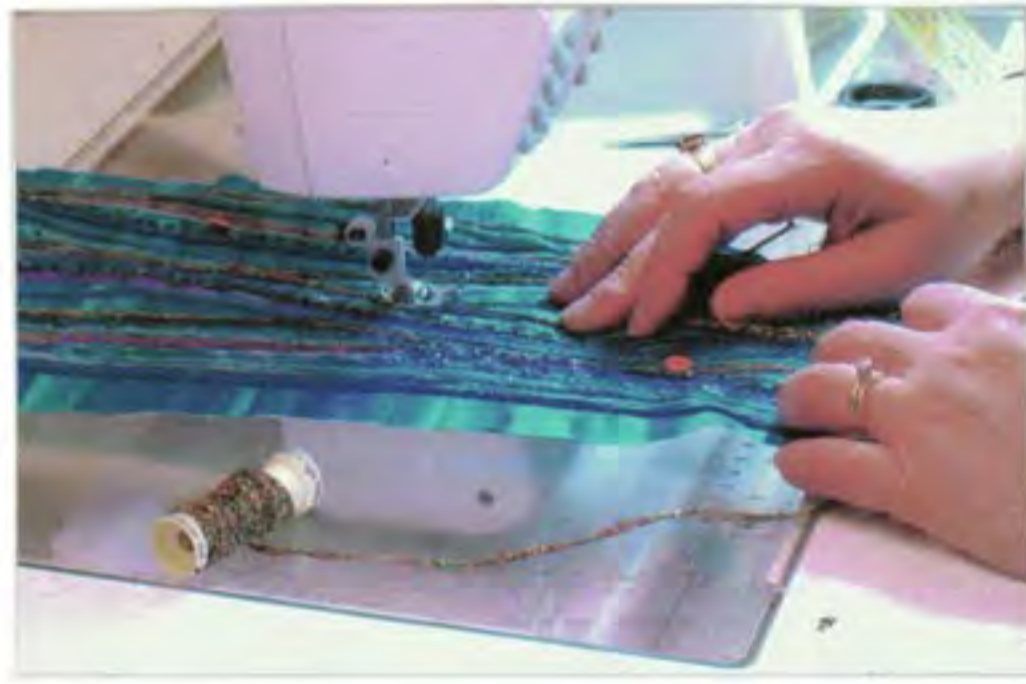
Up til now, I've been making the piece, before sewing, about 39" across. The final size (width) is 32." So now that the bottom is together + the middle is close, I have hung white fabric strips along the edges, 32" apart. I need to see exactly where the pieces will hit the edge. I don't want anything to get so small, when I turn it later, that it disappears or looks too small. I don't want to lose any of that luscious texture!

02/06/12

the light areas of the base fabric make me feel like I'm underwater + seeing sunbeams entering + shining thru the water



← couched yarns + ribbons



another area of gathers



I love how this fabric changes from blue to green as the light hits it from different angles!





02/09/12

horizontal, spaced tucks



there is a wavy vine that I could use as a guide for couching yarns. every other row could have the tucks going in opposite directions

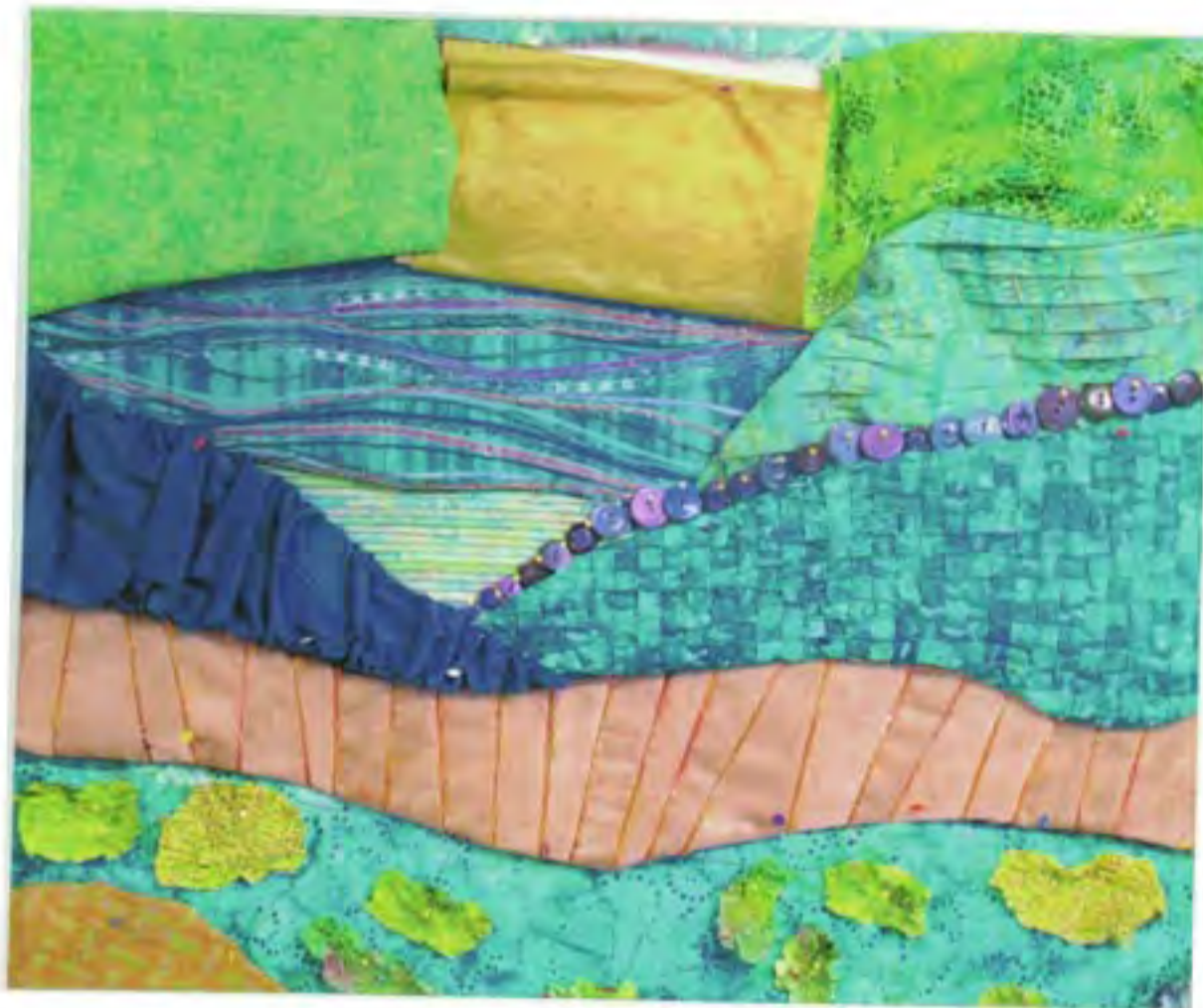
Stippling, shrunk on 100% wool felt



this is a marbled fabric that creates wonderful color flows when its woven



there is not alot of contrast between the horizontal tucks and the woven area. perhaps a row of buttons? I want to include embellishments in this work so maybe this is a place to think about.



← row of buttons



← and... not. My eye keeps stopping here so I will try something else... something with more contrast than these 2 adjacent areas have.

Keep on re-arranging —



← covered the horizontal tucks with green

covered couched yarns  
w/ horizontal tucks →  
& kept green on right





Center fabric = too yellow  
← replaced horizontal tucks w/ wrapped strips + eyelash yarn

the "boardwalk" is cutting the piece in half - it should be narrower + extend from right to just over 1/2 way across.



better  
← horizontal tucks back in here

02/13/12



Some reshuffling at the top

← Swapped the 2 green textures

← still too wide (high) + now it looks like a fish with a long pointy nose!

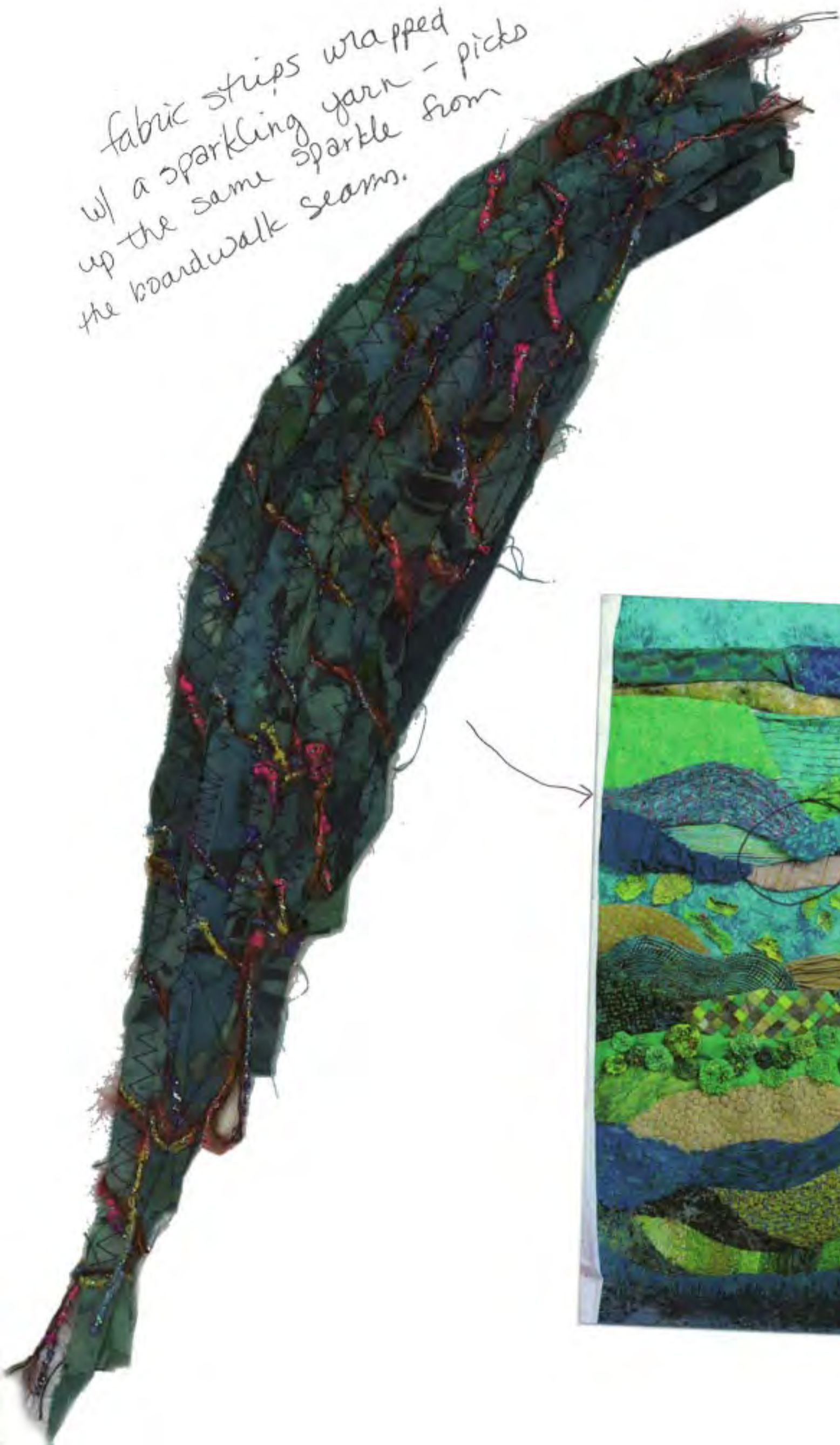
maybe this part should extend from side to side

moved the gathered piece down to cut off the board-walk

reswapped the greens + moved the horizontal tucks to right side again



fabric strips wrapped  
w/ a sparkling yarn - picks  
up the same sparkle from  
the boardwalk seams.



this area is  
blah

not sure I  
like the  
separation  
between the  
blue gathering  
on the left &  
the aqua  
woven texture  
on the right

02/14/12

Made this green area smaller - that's an improvement



← added the couched yarn texture back in here

I think the horizontal tucks area might still be too big



I like the reshaping of the textures here. Also like the addition of the yarn on the horizontal tucks. Makes me think of seaweed or moss hanging from the big trees in the south.





this texture looks too pale. as this is my 2nd fabric / yarn combo, and I don't like the idea of doing it a third time unless absolutely necessary, I am going to try what I call "influencing the color." Here I have used paintstiks to deepen the blue

horizontal tucks with couched yarn

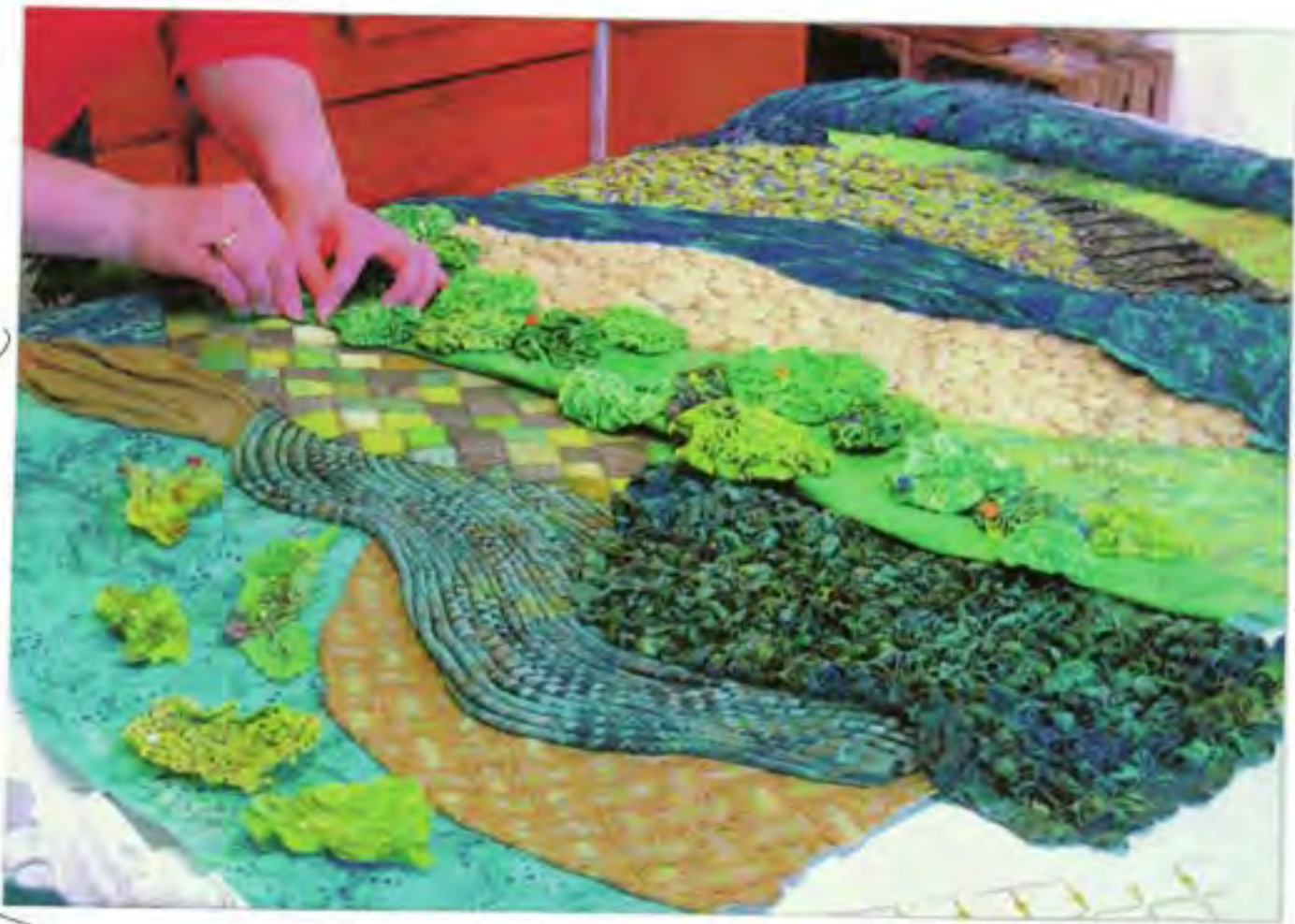


I like the result!





02/17/12



the area from  
the patchwork  
field + bubbled  
area up  
thru the  
water for  
the islands  
is together

this bottom  
area is in  
1 piece

the beach +  
2 green  
adjacent  
areas are  
also 1  
piece

Here I'm pinning the large pieces together to see how all the areas are going to fit together. I won't actually sew them all together til later. Now, I need to sew the area just above the "islands" and attach those two together - I need to know the exact shape of the water before I decide about the shape + placement of the "islands"

02/20/12



This group is the wrapped strips, the woven piece, the gathered piece and the boardwalk; surrounding the lighter pleated area. These 5 areas are just above the "island" area; now I can join the 2 upper-middle areas & then I can finalize placement of the "islands."

02/27/12 samples of textures I've made this week:



←  
Garter  
Stitch



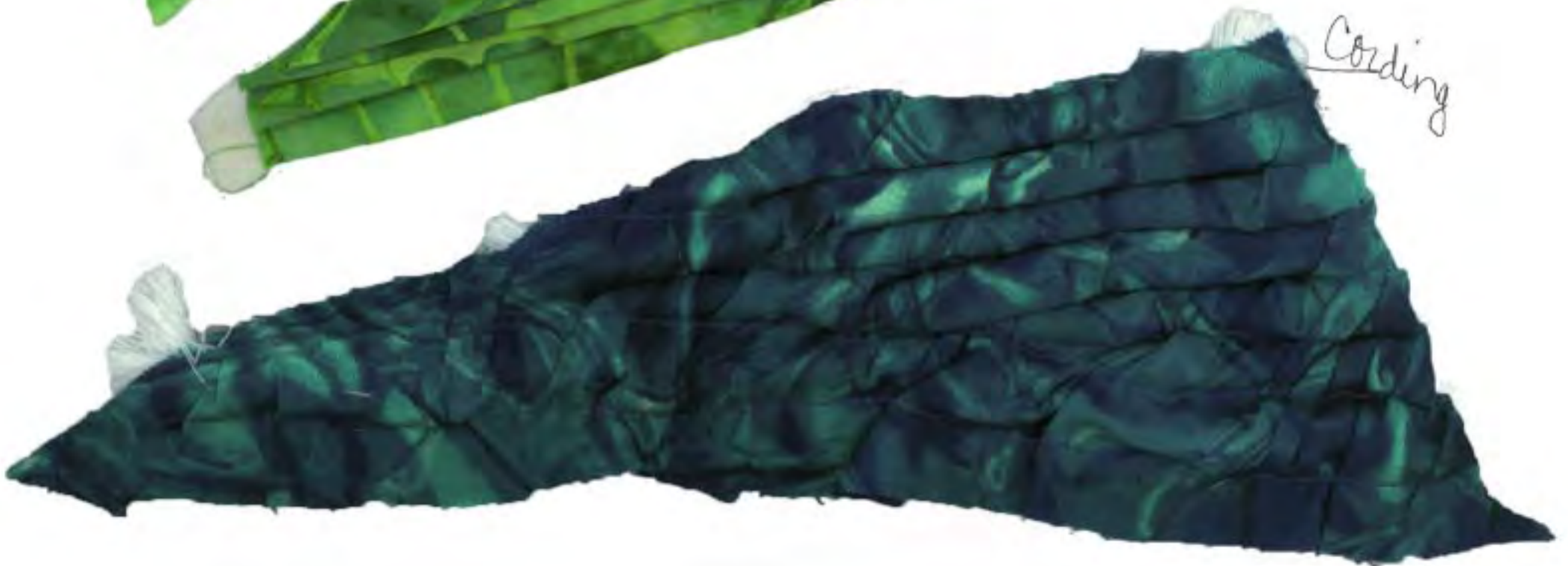
vertical tucks in sheer overlay



stippling + shrinking

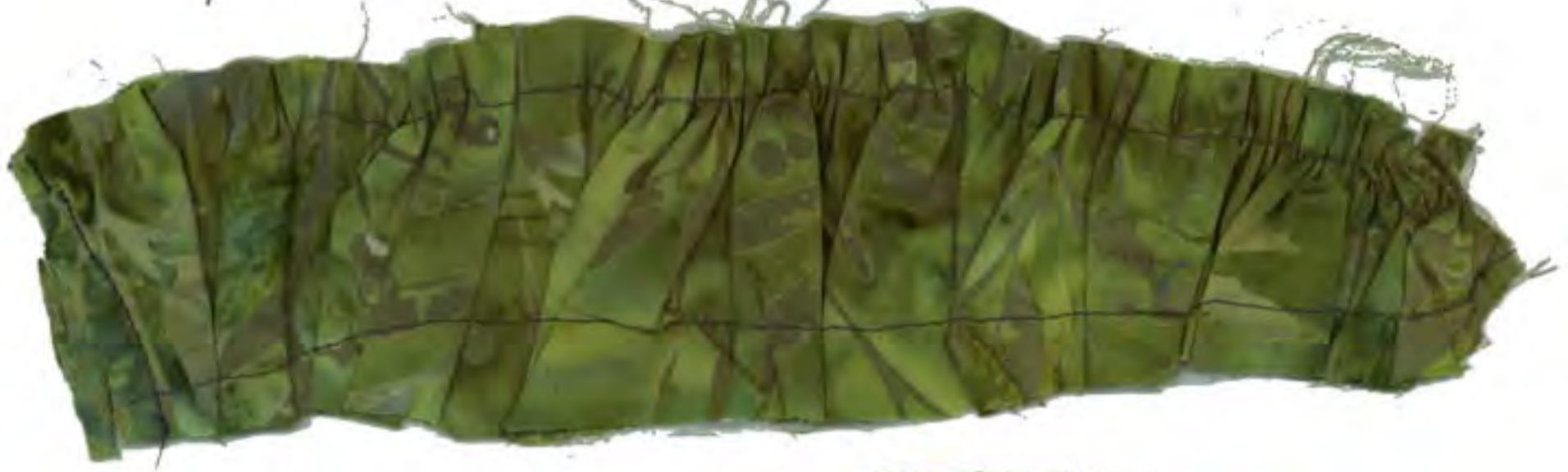


hand-gathered pleating



Cording

gathering



North American smocking in  
random flower pattern. Here I  
used the opposite side from  
the larger  
area



toward the bottom  
of the piece. I also  
sewed beads at  
each meeting  
point.



Here's the top  
area put  
together!

02/28/30

Is the design done?

In this placement, too many islands hug the edges →

5 tree tops in a line → need to change that a bit

here I plan to sew a row of aqua stone-like beads to highlight this curve

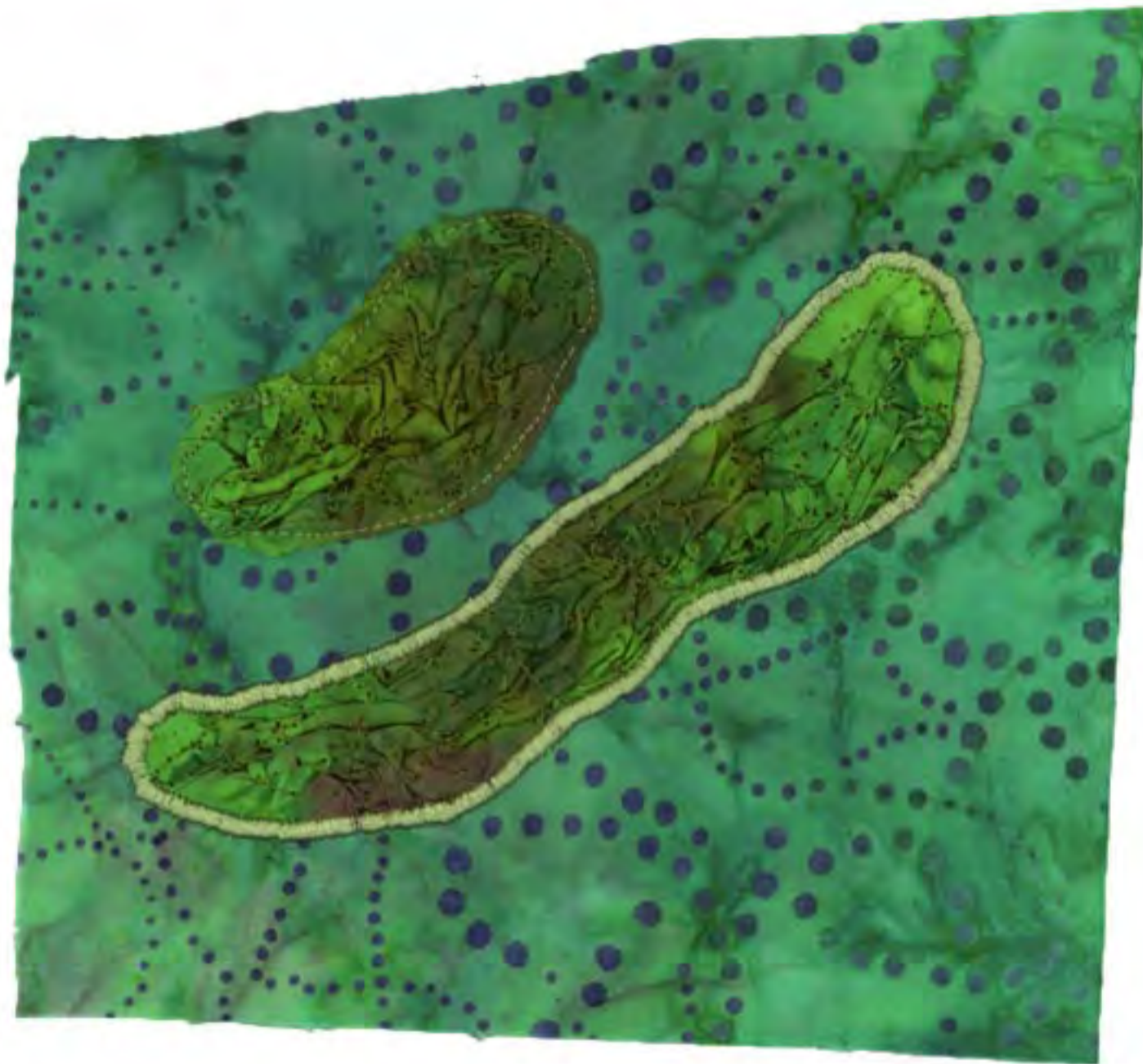


← I like tree top placements on this side

plan: sew bronze or crystal-like beads among the stones to sparkle like sand in the sunshine

? I wonder if I could find a yarn to tack at random on the lower edge of the stones to seaweed?

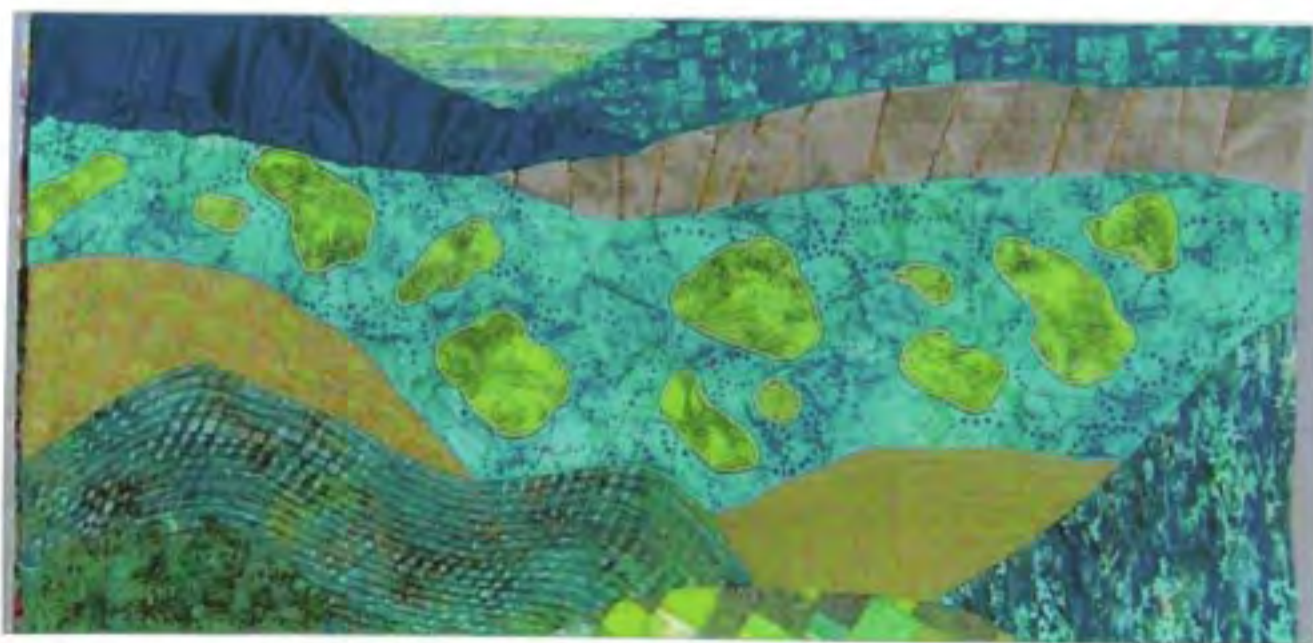
02/29/12



Sample "islands"

- I like the slight changes of color in this fabric

- outline is too prominent - tone down w/ another shade more to a light green w/ less yellow highlights



← final placement

03/01/12



Some of the textures - particularly the stones - are heavy & seem to be sagging after hanging upright for the past few weeks as the design developed... So I decided to hang it upside down for a few days to "reverse the pull of gravity."

(wish that would work with people!! in)

03/03/12 there are so many differences in the thicknesses of all the fabric manipulation techniques that I used. Some are naturally thick (cording, wrapped strips); others were built on wool felt due to the shrinking process; and some were built on a thin stabilizer (hand-gathered pleats, other pleats & tucks, gathered areas, "islands" etc). This last group needed extra batting to keep them from "caving in." Here I'm tacking a layer of batting to the tabs.



(cording, wrapped strips); others were built on wool felt due to the shrinking process; and some were built on a thin stabilizer (hand-gathered pleats, other pleats & tucks, gathered areas, "islands" etc). This last group needed extra batting to keep them from "caving in." Here I'm tacking a layer of batting to the tabs.

03/05/12



After the lightest areas were covered w/ batting, I put a large batting over the whole back, cut away the areas behind the heaviest textures and hand tacked this second layer to all the seamlines.

03/06/12

I sewed along the bottom and both sides, thru all the layers and turned the whole piece right side out. Here it is on my table with pins along all the seamlines. Next will be quilting thru all these layers, along the seamlines!





03/09 : 12



Well, quilting thru all those layers was a 'big job! A few days and many broken needles later, here it is. I have hung it over a rod between a pair of bi-fold doors. Here I can adjust the height so it is exactly 78" long.

Also, I am trying out some yarn on the topmost area - maybe several wavy strands up there - ie winds?

So, these yarns are now on and the height is exactly right. what's left?

- some beading
- hanging sleeve
- label
- photography
- appraisal

The end is in sight!

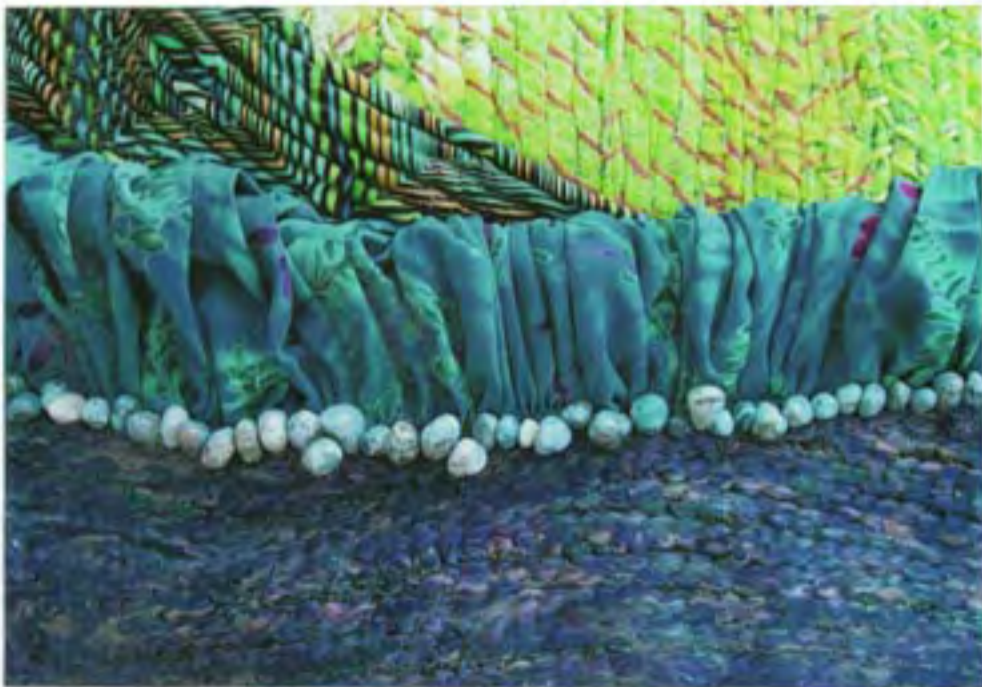




sample of  
sheer overlay  
on cotton  
with  
couched  
yarn

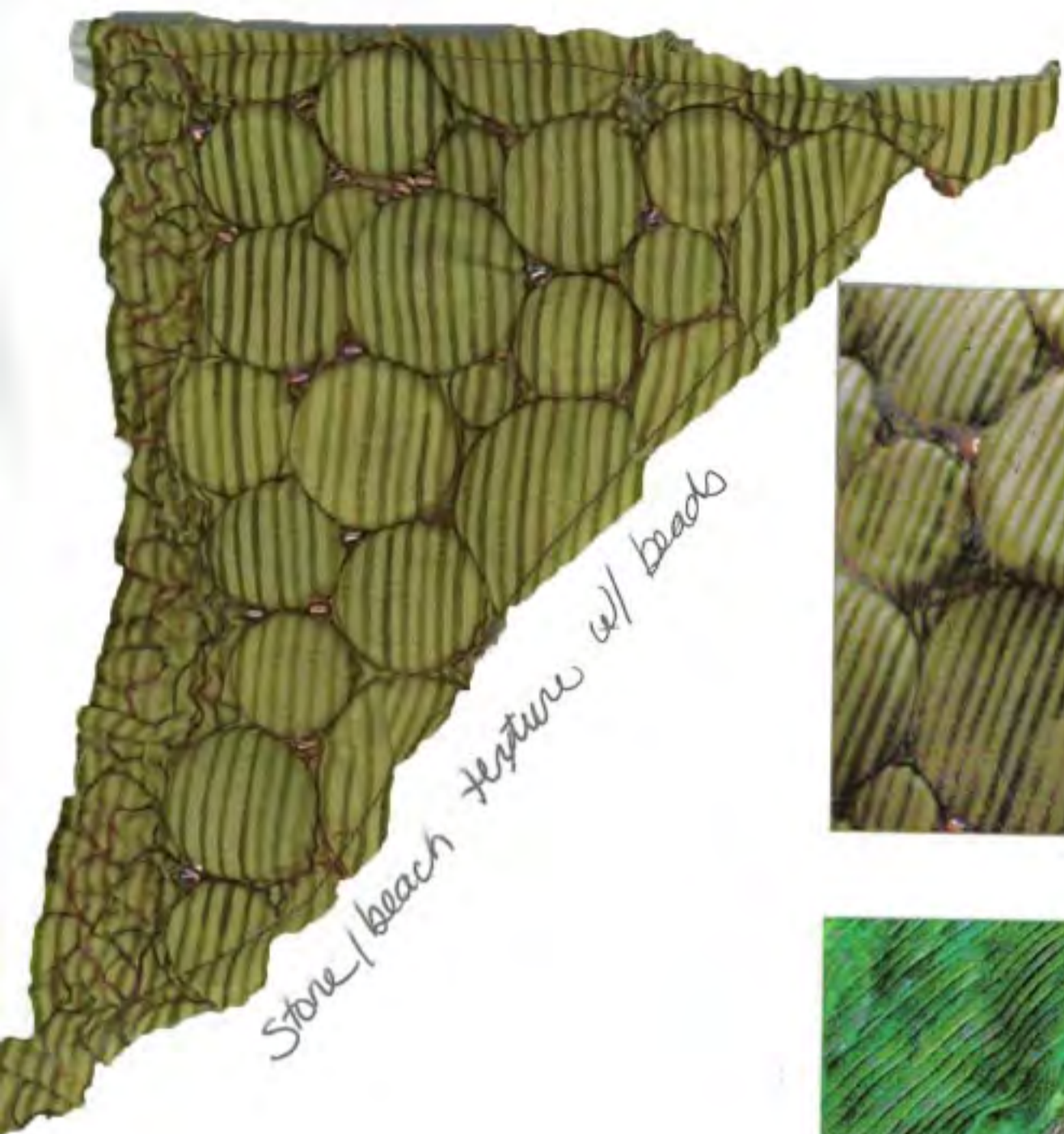


Sewing stone-like beads  
near the bottom



finished view of stones.

03/10/12



Stone / beach texture w/ beads

Sewing the beads



↑ finished "beach" with small beads to sparkle like grains of sand in the sunlight and a variegated yarn at the lower edge for "seaweed"



Scattered beads at the gather points of the north American Smocking



03/11/12



the finished work!

"Summertime"