



Addendum 26

How to draw Continuous-line Landscapes for Creative Fills

by

Michele Vangraan





About the Author: Michele Vangraan



Michele Vangraan is a certified educator with 40 years of sewing experience, and 25 years of Graphic Design experience. She is currently the business owner of Edge To Edge Quilting, Inc., and also heads up the longarm training department at a local sewing store. She writes manuals, and is a professional longarm quilter.

Michele was born in South Africa, and has been in the USA since 1997. She uses Handi Quilter machines (the Avanté and the Infinity), and trains on the Baby Lock Crown Jewel as well as Pro-Stitcher. She also uses a multi-needle professional embroidery machine. Her passion is Designing, and she loves to create new designs in Art and Stitch to use on her Pro-Stitcher software when she quilts and trains.



Michele won the national Moda Designer's Award for her original "Remember" quilt, which featured the 'Because of the Brave' fabric line.

Her flag on the quilt was pieced by machine, and she used the Brother ScanNCut to cut out her hand-drawn pieces for the Statue of Liberty. Once her design was set and fused, she stitched around all her appliqué by machine, then loaded her quilt top onto her longarm machine, using Pro-Stitcher to crop out the applique areas, and stitch a pantograph in the background area

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Additional certifications:

Audi High Performance Driving

Baby Lock Crown Jewel Longarm

Sulky Teacher

Theology



Introduction

What you will learn in this lesson:

You will learn how to simply trace multiple images, connecting them to form a free-flowing design, forming a continuous-line landscape pattern.

You will learn to save your landscape as either a Creative Fill, or for use as a full stitchout on your longarm machine.

Definition of a Creative Fill:


A Creative Fill is a continuous line pattern, which can be used inside a shape by the function, “Apply Creative Fill Effect”. Essentially, the computer will ‘cut out’ and place your Creative Fill inside the shape.

Advantage of a Creative Fill landscape design:

You can draw any continuous line pattern to be used as a Creative Fill. It will have the look and feel of a freehand background filler, with many elements and themes within one design.

You can sew any one of your creations on your computer guided system, or your embroidery machine.

It will be unique, and depending on which section of your design you insert your shape, you will have a different theme in your creative fill area.



TIP: The Creative Fill used in this Addendum is included in the
Art and Stitch Library > Designers Collection:
“Michele Vangraan HeronBackgroundFill”

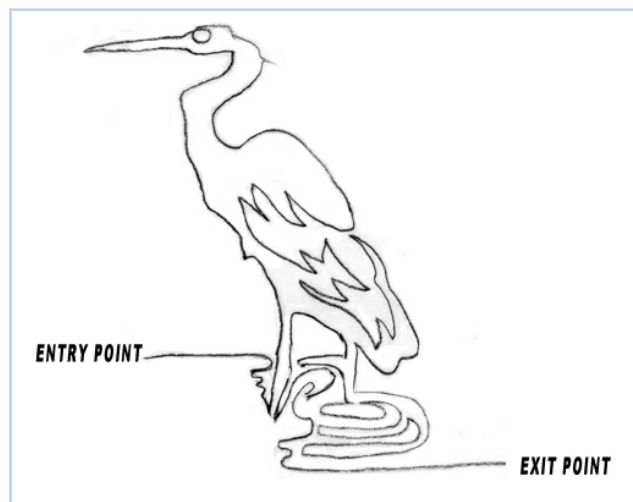
A good place to start is to search online for “Lineart Images”

In this case, I searched for elements that matched my landscape theme. I used a Heron bird as my main character. You can even look through coloring books for ideas.

Print the images, trace them with a pencil onto a vellum page or any tracing paper, using a light box. Position your page horizontally (landscape, not portrait).

Useful materials: Tracing Paper, Sharpened hard lead H2Pencil, Eraser, Light Box.

Start with your ‘main character’. In this case, I started with my Heron picture, as I wanted to have my landscape theme around that. I centered the Heron in the middle of my page



Sizing: If you wish to change the size of an individual image for tracing, reduce or enlarge on a copy machine until you get the size you want.

Tip for Graphic Designers: Copy and paste each element in a software package like PhotoShop, and scale each layered item down or up accordingly, until you have various elements on your page, all to the same scale.

Print your basic hard copy (see image below):

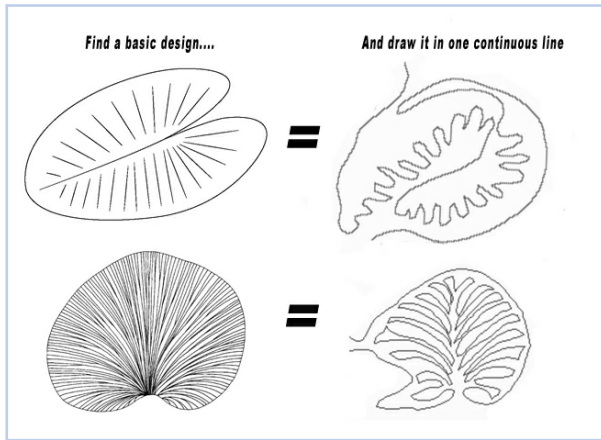


Silhouette and lineart images on printed copy paper

Notice this is merely a basic sample of lineart or silhouettes I printed out to inspire a theme. In my final tracing, I repeated some of the leaves, some flipped horizontally or vertically, drew out my own butterflies, and changed the basic design to make my drawing unique.



Getting Started - Cont'd



Leaf Tracing example

Here is an example of how I changed the staggered lines in the leaves to continuous line drawings.

Look for any lineart or silhouette designs that go with your theme, and place them under your tracing paper at different places, tracing the outline of your images only.

Getting prepared to freehand trace your printed design with a pencil:

Tip: Position yourself comfortably at a desk, where you will find it easy to draw freehand comfortably.

With your pencil, start tracing a **CONTINUOUS LINE** around your elements, adding definition where needed. Fill blank/white spaces with **ECHOING** around elements, moving your pencil continuously to the next element, and so on. Don't be shy to rub out and redraw lines you don't like. It will all come together as you practice.



Sample of Continuous Line Drawing from lineart images

The key here, is to have **ONE START POINT** and **ONE END POINT**



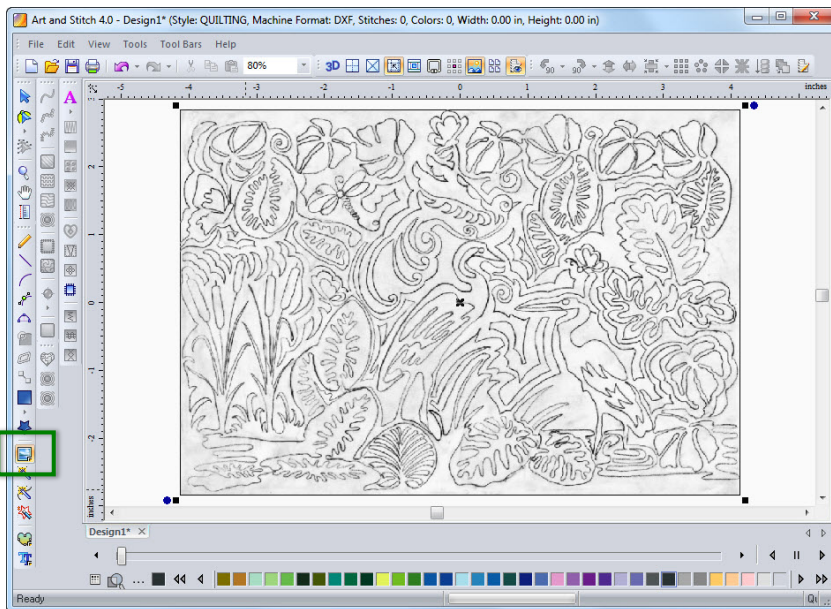
Trace in Art and Stitch

Is your drawn image ready for bringing into in Art and Stitch?

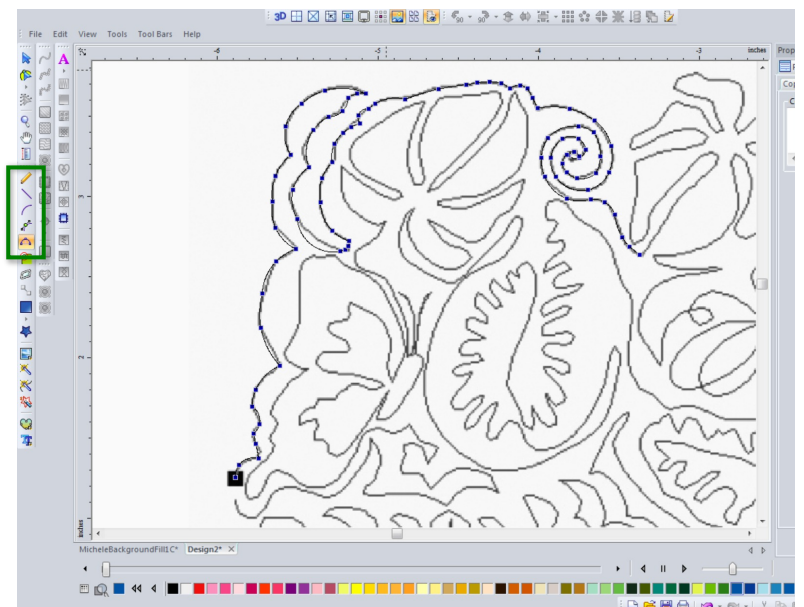
Option 1: Scanning



First scan your penciled image, save it as a jpeg file, bring into Art and Stitch as a Backdrop



With your image as a backdrop, trace your drawing, using Art and Stitch drawing tools in the Artwork Toolbar

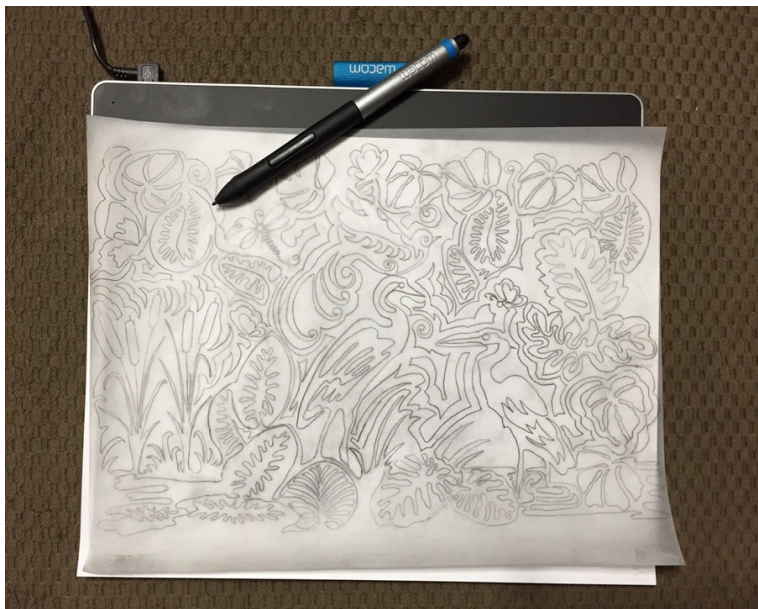




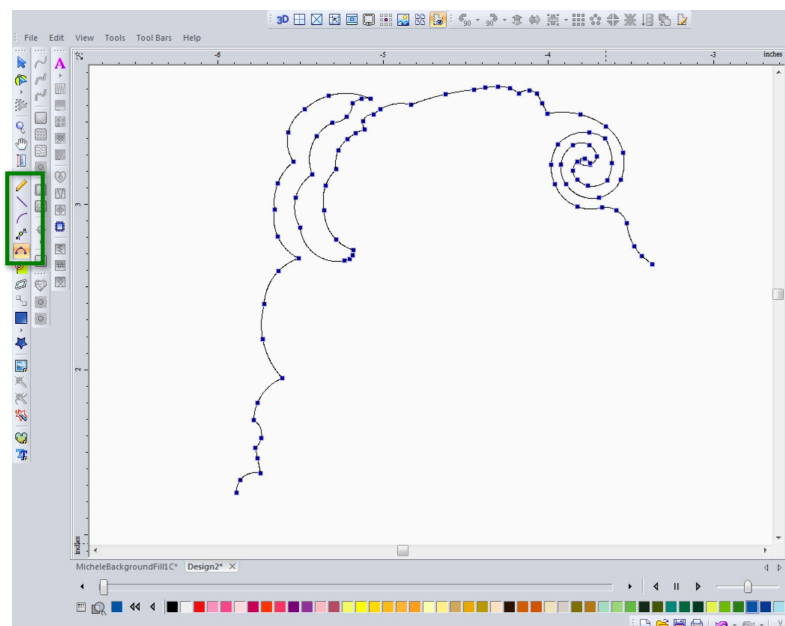
Trace in Art and Stitch - Cont'd

Option 2: Drawing on a Tablet

I used a Wacom Tablet connected to my computer to draw straight into Art & Stitch:



This is how your screen will look while tracing on a Wacom tablet. Use the Arc tool and Curve tool, where suitable:





Connect the separate pieces

Tie objects together while drawing or afterwards

It will be difficult to finish an entire landscape in one run. It's easier to draw it in segments: draw a part and right-click to finish that segment.

Whenever you right-click between objects and start a new element, there are two options to tie the new object to the existing drawing:

While drawing - use Connect to Path

Finish a segment by right-clicking. Reshape where needed.

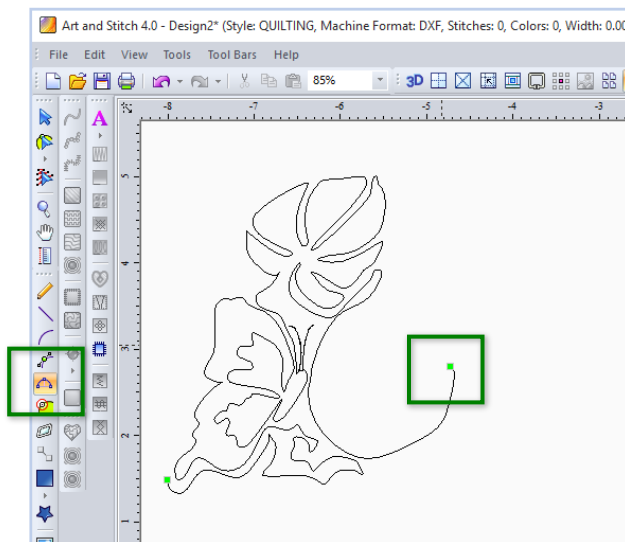
Take a drawing tool. Before drawing the first point, turn on "Connect to Path" by pressing the T key on your keyboard just once, or by right-clicking in one of the rulers and activating the line "Connect to Path". You will see a green node appear at the dangling ends of the existing object. Draw the first point close to that green node of the first object and continue drawing your new segment. It will automatically be connected to the existing object.

Afterwards - Tie Together in Reshape mode, holding down letter T

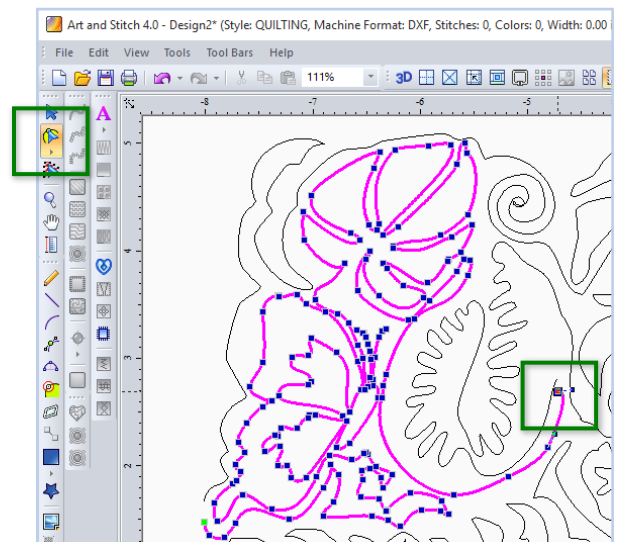
Or draw everything in separate segments. Once the drawing is completed, take the Reshape tool to tie everything together into one object:

In Reshape mode click and hold the mouse down in the last point of the first segment, then press and hold the letter T on your keyboard. Move the selected point in the direction of the starting point of the next object - the points will start blinking - then release the mouse first and then release the T-key. The two segments are tied together. Repeat until all segments are connected into one.

Note: Do not use Merge on continuous paths, as that would cause unnecessary over stitching.



Resume drawing with "Snap to Path" turned on



Tie Together in Reshape Mode afterwards

Once you have completed your continuous-line drawing, right click, then use your Reshape tool until you are happy with the finished result. Don't forget to save!



Saving and using your landscape as Creative Fill

Saving your created landscape design as an area fill

Select the landscape drawing and choose menu Tools > Save into Library. Save in the folder "My Shapes". Also choose menu File > Save as, and save as a backdrop copy in your own folder, named "Backup My Library".

Applying the Creative Fill Effect



Start a new Design Page and click on the Library button. Choose the creative fill you made.

Note:

Rules for Applying your Creative Fill

Rule 1: Creative Fills must be one continuous artwork path

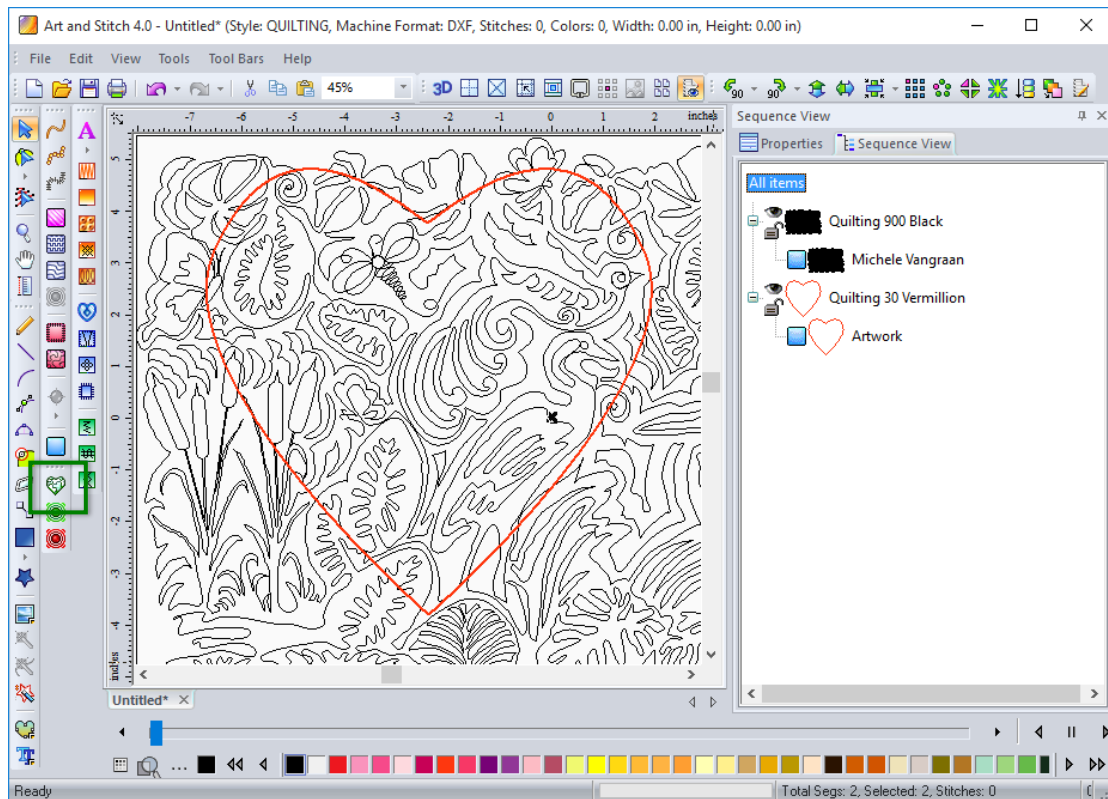
Rule 2: The 'masking shape' you choose (eg. a heart in this case), must be a closed artwork shape on top of the creative fill.

Rule 3: Both artwork objects must be selected together (select ALL)



Click again on the Library button and choose a shape to be filled with your pattern. In this example, I used a Heart from the Shapes folder. Select the shape and make it a different color than the fill.

Change the Pen width to 1.0 (right of screen in Properties), in order to see heart shape more clearly



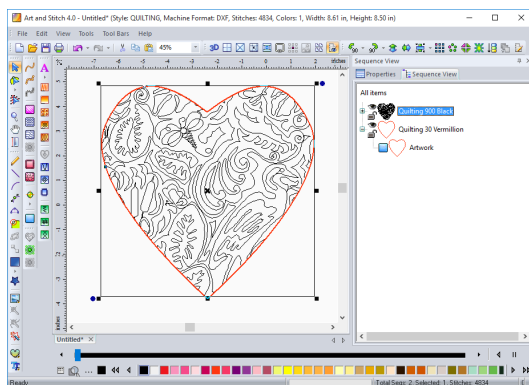
Press Ctrl+A to Select All and click on the Apply Creative Fill effect button.



Saving and using your landscape as Creative Fill - cont'd



Select the fill and click on the button Line Sew Type Running Stitch to turn the artwork fill into stitches.



Play with the fill and the mask shape. Resize and move the heart shape over the landscape fill for different Creative Fill effects:



Save your files in the format of your machine, save to a USB, and stitch out on your longarm machine. It's Sew Easy!!! Enjoy.

Michele