Ann Johnston's process varies for each quilt she makes in her Lake Oswego, Oregon studio. Often her quilts are inspired by photos she takes while hiking. She transforms the image into a sketch as part of the design process.

She uses dyes, brushes, sponges, and other tools to create her artworks. Sometimes she dyes many yards of fabric, and uses multiple processes, to achieve the results that she feels best capture the geology and geography of the Sierra Nevada.