



Embroiderers' Guild

sharing opportunities for discovery and creativity

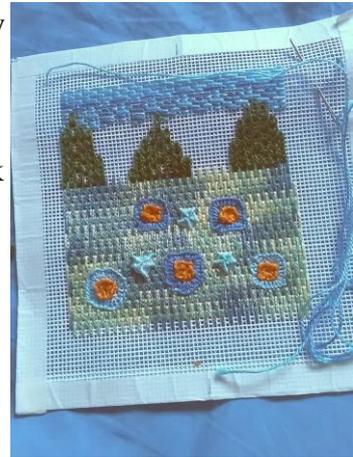
Darlington at Home - March 2020

Hello everyone.

It is a pity that we are stuck at home. I feel our newsletters could be like the 'Wiper Times' as produced by soldiers at Ypres if we pool our stories.

Now could be an opportunity to finish up pieces that you have already started, for example the canvas work which we started with Helen L and Margaret S last month.

I tried using the buttonhole circles to make flower shapes. Then I took inspiration from our group and copied the 'spiders web' type of circle. I have filled in the space with straight stitches using a variegated green mixture for grass. I used 3 different shades of blue for the sky over varying numbers of canvas strands. I tried working chain over different numbers of strands to add some bushes.



Competitions

Joy writes

Whilst members are unable to come together at a meeting perhaps this is an opportunity to take inspiration for future projects.

The theme for the autumn '**Festival Bowl**' competition this year is '**Inspired by Folk Art**' .

This idea grew from the items shown by artist Sarah Jackson at the October 2019 meeting. Members who were there might recognise this panel shown below '**The Tree of Life**'

Definition of Folk Art:- Art originating among the common people of a nation or region and usually reflecting their traditional culture, especially everyday or festive items produced or decorated by unschooled artists.

I am also including a photo of my personal example of Canal Art – a souvenir of a holiday on a Narrow Boat in the 1990s!

You will be able to find many more examples from different cultures & there are whole galleries of Images of Folk Art designs to be explored on line.



Julia writes:

Other styles of embroidery that I can think of and could be used with this Folk Art theme:-

Smocking as used as wet weather gear in the past. I remember the revival last century. Gingham is easy to use but you could do the basic gathering for smocking using striped or polka dotted fabric. I have used old striped shirt sleeves .

Durham quilting. I made a recorder bag for my treble recorder in class with Helen K. It is all hand sewn. You could use an old blanket wool or fleece for the middle of the sandwich. Draw on the outer layer before you start. Spirals, shells, flowers, a lattice - the quilters took inspiration from furnishings around them. It is traditional and convenient work with a wooden frame but if you are making a small piece you can manage by tacking layers together only it won't be as accurate on the back of your work.



Sashiko used by Japanese women to bind together old clothes strengthening weak areas. They devised their own patterns of straight stitches. Draw any pattern that you; like but don't have stitches crossing on the surface.

Kantha work again used to sew old fabrics together. Mark out a shape, for example an animal. You could trace a cookie cutter for that. Some of you will have used stencils with Charity and Gloria. Fill the shape with lines of stitching following the outline. To be traditional you should be filling in the surrounding area in the same way with lines of stitches.

It doesn't need to be embroidery techniques which inspire you. Joy has also sent a photo of barge work painting. Their tradition continues for hard-up the barge dwellers of today. I bought a mug when I lived in the Midlands which had been hand painted in this style.

Washable Technique

I learned an interesting technique with Helen K.

1) We machine stitched 5 to 6 layers of fabric together. We used muslin in different colours. A bottom layer of furnishing fabric works well too. You can use different patterns of stitching wavy, curvy or spiky.

2) We used sharp scissors to cut the fabric between the lines of stitching

3) we put the piece in the washing machine.

The resulting effect was used to great effect in one of the quilt shows. I'm afraid that I can't recall the artist's name but she had used an unbleached fabric as a sandy beach.

A hint from an exhibitor at the Woolfest, Cockermouth.

1) She combines a wool layer with a printed cotton.

2) She stitches around motifs such as birds.

3) She puts it in a hot wash.

The wool shrinks leaving a 3D effect.

New Branch Website has been delayed as the website builder is involved in Corona crisis.

If you have any pictures of your work in progress that you would like to share you can email me.

Julia Goudge

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