

EMBROIDERY, EMBELLISHMENT, ENRICHMENT

For hundreds of years people have felt compelled to decorate their bodies, clothing, homes and surroundings. Now treat yourself to the luxury of beautifying your work with embroidery and embellishment. In this class, students will embellish a small quilt top by hand and/or by machine. Instruction and demonstrations will feature both **hand and machine embroidery and embellishment**. You may choose to work by hand or machine to add personal touches in thread, beads, buttons, sequins and other exciting finishes.

We will look at how quiltmakers and other textile artists have dealt with this almost-irresistible desire to decorate (and the difficulties in knowing where to stop).

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

You may choose to work by hand or machine or both. Choose supplies from this list accordingly.

- Sewing machine, cleaned, oiled and in good working order. Bring manual and knee lift (if your machine has one). Extension cord with appropriate adaptor/multi-plug.
Optional accessories: cording foot, ¼" foot, piping foot, zipper foot.
Machine needles: try a variety including some of the following:
Schmetz Universal 60,80,90; metallic, embroidery, quilting and twin needles.
- Hand sewing needles; a variety that will accommodate both your thick and thin threads, as well as beads.
- Thimble
- Thread: mercerized cotton and a variety of specialist machine threads of your choice (metallic, embroidery, etc) These can be used for hand sewing too. There are wonderful threads available.
- A variety of hand embroidery threads including stranded threads, perlé cotton, rayon threads etc.
- braids, ribbons, cords, string,
- buttons, beads, sequins, shells, etc.
- Embroidery scissors
- Embroidery hoop.
- Fabric marking pens/pencils/chalk for light and dark fabric
- **Optional:** desk lamp
- Notebook/ journal with pens or pencils
- Books or pictures as discussed below.

PREPARATION:

Find pictures of everything you can that is embellished, from clothing, to jewelry, to buildings etc. Bring these, or descriptions to class.

FABRIC

- At least 2 pieces of fabric approx 16 – 18 " square. You will use these to try out all those new and exciting stitches. They should be firm cotton and can be any color you choose.
- You may choose to bring some specialty fabrics such as silks, velvets or sheers to see how they affect the look of your embellishments.
- Backing and batting.
- Stabilizer: Stitch-and-Tear, Solvy Totally Stable, or similar stabilizer of your choice.