

Art Quilt Techniques – Thread Sketching

Supply list

Instructor: Helene Knott 503-631-8806 Email: helene.m.knott@gmail.com

Website: www.heleneknott.com

These sketches done with thread are easier than they look. You don't need to have experience with artistic drawing skills – though confidence with free motion stitching will definitely help. The process is more like tracing with a sewing machine; the sketching style is looser and less precise than thread painting.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-631-8806 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **Fabric:** You will need a 9"x 12" piece of somewhat plain fabric. It can be as basic as muslin or a subtle print as long as the print is not so graphic as to interfere with your sketching. The color can be light, medium or dark and matters only in that it should be different than the colors of thread you intend to 'sketch' with.
- **Drawing printed on stabilizer:** You can use the self-stick water soluble stabilizer or, for a wall hanging where stiffness does not matter, a firm (papery) tear-away type. You can trace your original onto the stabilizer with pen or pencil, or photocopy it on stabilizer made to go through a computer printer. The source can be an illustration from a coloring book or a book of clip-art illustrations — Dover Publications has some wonderful illustration books, you can even use a photo if it is simple enough to pick out sketching lines (see example at the end of this list). The drawing should be fairly simple, keep in mind that you will be stitching these lines so pick something you can realistically stitch. Make the drawing any reasonable size - no larger than a standard sheet of paper but not too small either, you will need to be able to stitch the subject/details effectively. You can, and will, edit some of the details out but you need enough 'information' there to follow effectively with your thread-work. It might be wise to bring several choices. The final stitchery will be a reverse image of the photo so if it needs to be oriented a specific direction, you will have to print a reversed image. If you use a photo, it does not need to be printed in color but color printing will probably show contrasting details better and unless you plan to make a black & white 'sketch' having colors on the photo will help you determine which colors to sew with.
- **Thread:** Black thread but you can also bring colors that match your photo in general if you use one; the colors need not match exactly, this is meant to be a sketch, not thread painting.
- **Extra Bobbins (optional):** You will be stitching from the printed side of your project which means it is the bobbin thread that will create your sketch so if you want to stitch in multiple colors, you will need enough bobbins to hold each color of thread you intend to use.
- **Sewing Machine:** with free-motion foot (**this is absolutely necessary**)
- **Extra machine needles:** Sewing through the paper and fusible web will dull needles fairly quickly so it's good to have back-up needles. Machine Quilting in size 70/90 (11/14) or Topstitching 80/90 (12/14) are good choices. The larger needles are better for thicker threads if you will be using them.
- **Machine embroidery hoop (optional):** You can stitch without one but using a hoop will help control distorting in your stitchery
- **Thread snips**

