

Amanda McCavour

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5 Day Workshop Supply List

Course Title:

Mark Making with Free Motion Embroidery

Student Equipment List:

Sewing Machine: One of the most challenging things about machine embroidery is working with the sewing machine. It can be frustrating, it can be tricky. So before the workshop starts, make sure that you are familiar with your sewing machine. Spend some time exploring the different stitches and make sure you know how to thread the machine, load the bobbin etc. This workshop will be about exploring stitching and experimenting with it so it is ideal to have a handle on the quirks and personality of your tools before coming into the workshop.

Sewing Needles for your Machine: The needles in your machine can break or get sticky with the special water soluble fabrics we will be using- so bring some extras with you. I would recommend picking up Universal, Sharp or Machine Embroidery needles that fit your machine.

Free Motion Embroidery Foot for your Sewing Machine: A darning foot will also work

Extra Bobbins: I would recommend to bring about 5 of these.

Extension Cord: Any length. Label with your name.

Embroidery Hoop: This should be a smaller hoop that is around 6-8 inches across. Anything slightly bigger or smaller, you are welcome to bring as well.

Scissors: Fabric scissors and/or Embroidery scissors and/or fun scissors

Towel: Bring an old towel with you to dry the samples you will make in the 1st morning of the workshop.

Pins: These can be helpful for holding materials in place.

Optional Supplies:

Sewing Machine Threads: If you have any threads you would like to bring with you to use, this would be great!

Scrap fabrics: Grab some materials that you love from your stash that fit with your colours. I know I have bins of beautiful fabric I'm just saving- and you might too! Bring some of your beauties to integrate into your project. Small pieces of fabric are excellent for this process- the smaller the better actually!

Scrap yarns: Do you have scraps from previous projects that you are saving? This technique is an excellent way to recycle some of these materials.

A kit will be provided for this course:

\$50.00/student

Thread: polyester machine embroidery threads.

Sulky® Water-soluble Stabilizer (Solvvy): Each person will get 3 yards Sulky® Fabri Solvy, 3 yards Sulky® Fabri Solvy.

Along with the Kit these supplies will be provided:

Papers, Inks and Brushes

A Variety of Wool roving, Ribbons and Scrap Fabrics

General Course Description:

Learn the process of working with mixed media materials and water-soluble fabric in this mark making course. We will create free-form abstract ink drawings and then translate these pieces into stitch using water soluble fabric and a combination of materials. You will be encouraged to use a limited color palette of 2 colors to focus on marks, scale and composition. We will work with machine and hand stitching to create these works experimenting with a variety of techniques.

In this workshop students will make a range of samples that can be incorporated into quilts, mixed media pieces and garments. The workshop will explore combining soft materials, and layers to create new fabrics full of texture and line. I will generalize the procedure of using water soluble fabric so that knowledge can be applied to a variety of projects. The workshop will also present a discussion about mark making, expressive stitch, and creativity.

Skill Level: Beginner (If you know how to thread your sewing machine and sew a straight(ish) line, you can participate in this course.

Day 1: Line & Color

- Introduction to Sulky Solvy
- Demo: Building up layers in a variety of ways
- Demo: Stitch Patterns at the sewing machine
- Challenge 1: Color Challenge: Mixed Media Samples
- Lecture: Introduction to my work
- Discussion/Show and Tell

Day 2: Layers and Alternative Materials

- Show and tell. Share your samples to look over what we did yesterday. What things worked? What didn't?
- Demo: Deconstructing surfaces to create complex structures
- Challenge 2: Deconstructed Sample
- Challenge 3: Repeated Shapes Sample
- Lecture: Contemporary artists working with stitch
- Discussion/Show and Tell

Day 3: Line & Shape

- Expressive Ink Exercise 1
- Demo: How to translate drawings to stitch
- Demo: Working with layers and Water-Soluble Fabric
- Demo: Mark Making with Hand Stitching
- Challenge 4:
- Challenge 5:
- Lecture: Mark Making in Textile Art
- Discussion/Show and Tell

Day 4: Pairs & Scale

- Expressive Ink Exercise 2
- Demo: Playing with scale and contrast to create variety
- Demo: Mark making with your Sewing Machine
- Challenge 6: Positive and Negative Space pair
- Lecture: Mixed Media Textiles
- Discussion/Show and Tell

Day 5: Taking things in your own direction