

COURSE SYLLABUS

Textile Explorations: Inspired by *Making Her Mark* (18+) 5 Week

Instructor: Amanda Rataj

Saturday, May 4 - June 8, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Class 1: **Simplicity**

- Art connections: First visit to exhibition and discussion of themes and course focus.
- Art making: Gestural mark making/drawing in the gallery. Focus on geometries/shapes, drawing on gridded paper.

In this class, we will first explore *Making her Mark* and loosen up with gestural mark making in the gallery. In the studio, we will learn basic embroidery stitches and methods for transferring our marks to fabric.

Class 2: **Symbolism**

- Art connections: Symbols and hidden meanings in artworks.
- Art making: Gestural mark making/drawing in the gallery. Focus on abstraction.

We will focus again on mark making/drawing in the gallery to develop our own visual language in response to the exhibition. In the studio, we will begin using needle and thread to transfer our marks to fabric.

Class 3: **Connection**

- Art connections: The communal and connective nature of textile practices. Trade, economies.
- Art making: Slow stitching in the gallery/school.

We will visit the exhibition again to focus on specific works related to our theme. We continue our work slow stitching in the studio.

Class 4: **Sustainability**

- Art connections: Focus on materials, dyes, and textile lifecycles then and now.
- Art making: Slow stitching in the gallery/school.

We will visit the exhibition again to focus on specific works related to our theme. We continue our work slow stitching in the studio.

Class 5: Reflection

Art connections: Women picturing women, telling stories.

Art making: Finishing works in gallery school and having group presentations.

During this final class, we will finish our works and have our final visit to MhM. There will be an opportunity to share and discuss each other's works in the final hour.

MATERIALS LIST

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Items in **bold** are required for the first class.

- **Sketchbook:** Something non-precious for scribbling in - we'll be cutting up pages eventually. I recommend something like Strathmore 300 or 400 Series drawing or sketch pads, in the 8"x10" - 9"x12" size:
<https://store.abovegroundartsupplies.com/products/strathmore-400-series-drawing-pad---medium---9x12-44875.html>
<https://store.abovegroundartsupplies.com/products/strathmore-400-series-drawing-pad---medium---8x10-44873.html>
- **Pencil:** Hardness is your preference, I suggest 1-3 pencils in varying hardnesses: One B, one HB, and one H would be great.
- **One 6" embroidery hoop.** You can stitch without it, but it would be more comfortable to use one, especially if you've never embroidered before. [Text Wrapping Break]https://canada.michaels.com/en/loops-and-threads-wooden-embroidery-hoop/M10124152.html?dwvar_M10124152_size=8%20in[Text Wrapping Break]
- Embroidery needles: We provide 1 needle - if you would like more than one, we suggest purchasing size 5 embroidery needles at a sewing store. [Text Wrapping Break]<https://canada.michaels.com/en/gold-embroidery-needles-size-7-8-9/10691437.html>
- We will have scissors, but you may like to bring your own pair. If you wish to purchase some, these would be good: [Text Wrapping Break]<https://canada.michaels.com/en/loops-and-threads-embroidery-scissors/10454186.html>
- Embroidery floss in specialty colours. We will provide some basic floss for working in class, but you may feel inspired and wish to purchase additional colours for your piece. We suggest waiting until after class 2 to purchase any additional colours, and looking at floss such as:[Text Wrapping Break]Cosmo cotton embroidery floss: <https://theworkroom.ca/collections/thread-embroidery-floss-1>[Text Wrapping Break]DMC 6 strand cotton embroidery floss: <https://eweknit.co/collections/dmc-embroidery-floss> [Text Wrapping Break]DMC Pearl cotton: <https://www.iloveneedlework.com/collections/dmc-pearl-cotton>

All material sizes are approximate. Please retain your receipts in case exchanges or returns are needed. On your first day of class, your instructor may recommend additional optional materials. Our Instructors will do their best to accommodate alternative materials whenever possible.

Suggested retailers for purchasing your art materials:

Aboveground Art Supplies (discount code: AGOSTUDENT10), DeSerres, Gwartzman's, Michaels, or your local art supply store.