

EXPLORING FREESTYLE EMBROIDERY

An introduction to freestyle embroidery and the exciting things you can add to it! We start by building a tool kit of versatile embroidery stitches (see below), then expand our skills by adding 3D stitching and embellishments and exploring Shisha work (which incorporates small mirrors), as well as working with silk and gold threads. We will stitch a small but complete project every week, working from full embroidery kits (to be purchased at the beginning of the course at £4 each). Hoops and embroidery scissors will be available to borrow during the course, or may be bought from the tutor if desired (embroidery scissors £6, squissors £8, 4" flexi-hoop £2.50)

STITCHES USED

straight stitch, lazy daisy, French knot, fly stitch, bullion knot, blending, padded buttonhole stitch, wheat-ear stitch, buttonhole butterfly, Shisha stitch, chain stitch, satin stitch, beading, couching

MATERIALS USED

quilting cotton, chambray cotton, satin dupion, Egyptian muslin
DMC stranded cotton, Madeira Lana wool mix threads, Sulky blendables cotton thread, perle cotton, coton à broder, stranded silks, floral gems, beads, Shisha mirror, Japanese gold couching thread

SYLLABUS

Week	
1	Freestyle embroidery – building a stitch repertoire. Project: Wildflower garden
2	Freestyle embroidery – adding new stitches, personalising designs Project: Miniature house
3	Embellished embroidery – 3D stitching, adding beads and gems Project: Butterfly wreath
4	Indian Shisha embroidery – adding mirrors Project: Shisha flower
5	Silk & Gold embroidery – using silk and couched gold threads Project: Quatrefoil flower
6	Round-up of all projects