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Intro to Embroidery:

A Folk Art and storytelling tradition

Description: Embroidery is artful stitching, and by this definition it is considered one of the oldest folk traditions. Many cultural traditions have distinctive styles of quilting and embroidery. We will review references from art history such as English Medieval embroidery and artful pieces made by the Indigenous of the southwest and Alaska natives today. Participants will be introduced to many different stitches that can be used to create their own design. Specific sewing stitches we will learn step-by-step include the split stitch, the blanket stitch, the running stitch, and the french knot.

Experience: I have taught folk art traditions in a variety of settings to a wide audience since 2009. I have worked with dozens of libraries, galleries, Art Centers, Garden Centers and Art Museums on the East Coast including Brattleboro Art Museum in Vermont, Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton NJ, the Newport Art Museum in Rhode Island, the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors in Wappingers Falls, NY and the Center for Contemporary Art in Hudson Valley. My work has been featured in numerous periodicals including the Wall St. Journal.

Special instructions/supplies: To carry out the workshop, I will need three or four long tables and chairs for each participant. The furniture should be set up in a U-shape or square for a communal experience. I will provide all supplies: hoops, scissors, fabric, thread, etc.

Preferred # of participants per workshop: minimum of 6 up to 18 participants. If there is a long waiting list, the # of participants can be increased to 20 if the space can accommodate that number.

Preferred student type: Embroidery workshops are appropriate for ages over 18 years old.

Preferred day of week and times: Intro to Embroidery can be a 4 week semester course or a one-time event where we cover the basics at beginner level. The workshop is 2 hours long. For a workshop series, we would review how to transfer designs onto dark fabric, stitching on different kinds of fabric, and learn new stitches for each class.