

A Little Piece of Art

By Sarah Weld



“A Little Piece of Art”

This project uses mending techniques from Japanese Boro and Indian Kantha. It is an opportunity to experiment with mixing colors, textures and stitches. The primary stitch is the running stitches as well as other stitches of your choosing. My piece actually is a sample from a Fiber Forum workshop with Mary Ruth Smith.

MATERIALS

Fabrics

1. Foundation or background-I used a leftover, sturdy piece of linen.
2. Leftover scraps from other projects, recycled fabrics, trims, lace etc.
3. The example shown measures 4 ¼ inches by 5 ¾ inches. The project can be any size you wish to work.

Threads

1. Various types and weights of cotton floss, perle cotton, silks, wool, etc.

Needles/Pins

1. Sharps needles
2. Straight pins

Stitches

1. Running stitch
2. Your choice of other stitches

Edge Finishing Suggestions

1. A turned under edge is good, remember to leave enough of foundation fabric to turn under.
2. A stitched edge such as using the buttonhole or blanket stitch.
3. A quilt binding

With your collection of fabrics, start laying out scraps on the foundation fabric. Once you are happy with your arrangement, Starting with the running stitch, stitch down your scraps in rows. If your piece has areas that would suggest circular rows this can be done versus straight rows. Fabric shapes can determine stitch direction. Add textural bits, etc. Looking at my example, the entire piece is completely stitched. Determine how you wish to finish the edge and if desired, a fabric or felt can be applied to the back to hide your stitches.

RESOURCES

Stitch Books:

1. Mary Thomas’s Dictionary of Embroidery Stitches, revised by Jan Eaton-Search Press-2019
2. The Embroiderer’s Handbook-Inspirations(Australian) reprinted 2017

3. Encyclopedia of Needlework-Donna Kooler-Leisure Arts Pub. 2000-try used books stores/websites.
4. Slow Stitch-Mindful & Contemplative Textile Art-Claire Wellesley Smith-Batsford-2015-this is good for background on Japanese Boro, Kantha and other ideas.

“How to Sites” for stitch diagrams and descriptions

1. Royal School of Needlework Stitch Bank: <https://rsnstitchbank.org>
2. Internet websites-there are many