

Fiber Forum Retreat 2025 – *New Class!*

Exploring Improvisation in Abstract Embroidery

Embroidery Artist: Heather Kerley

April 27-May 3, 2025

Houston Marriott Sugar Land (greater Houston area)

16090 City Walk, Sugar Land, Texas 77479



Objective: Students will learn about experimenting with different textures and forms using a range of traditional embroidery stitches in innovative ways. We will use watercolors, collage, and found fabric scraps with a variety of colors and patterns to inspire a completely improvisational approach to stitching. Improvisational creating is a little different from mindful stitching, though both are unplanned. Improvisation is the practice of creating spontaneously within recognized parameters such as a chosen palette, theme, or frame. Mastery of color is especially important in improvisation so we will be spending some time on color theory, including practical exercises for increasing students' color confidence. Students will learn about how to create an improvised work spurred by found materials while embracing creative flow. The class will cover strategies for creating a harmonious and balanced composition. We will conclude by learning a few different ways to finish and display your work.

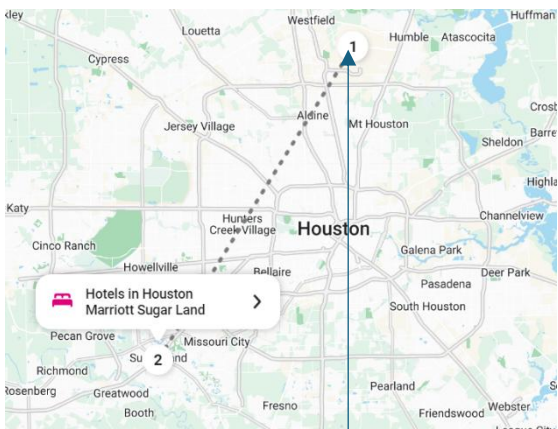


Biography: Heather Kerley is a mixed media and fiber artist living in the Washington DC area. Her art encompasses a diverse range of mediums, from watercolor and collage to embroidery and quilting. As a fiber artist committed to sustainability, she uses found and upcycled materials in much of her work, inspiring creative improvisation and play. Kerley has been teaching art in different venues for over ten years and has been with the Smithsonian Associates Studio Arts Program for over 4 years. She enjoys evolving her classes alongside her own creative journey and cherishes her interactions with students. (Website: www.heathermccawkerley.com)

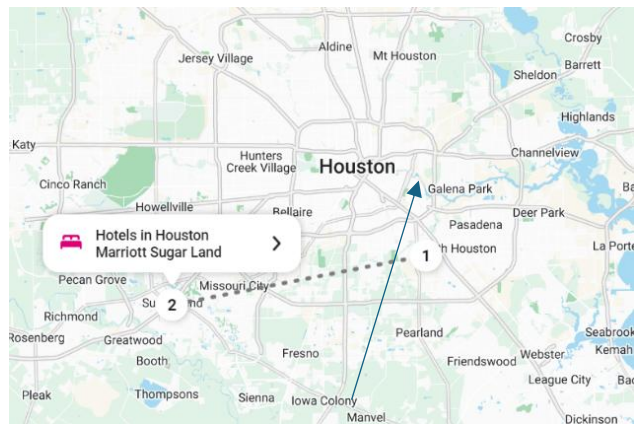


Hotel Information:

The Houston Marriott Sugar Land is located 29 miles from Houston Hobby Airport (HOU) and 41 miles from George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH). All other meals, travel between airport and hotel, gratuities, sightseeing, and other such items are at the participant’s expense. The hotel is in the Sugar Land Town Square and has restaurants and shopping opportunities within easy walking distance of the hotel. Complimentary parking is adjacent, and valet parking available for a fee. The maps below are to show general airport locations only.



Intercontinental Airport
Hobby Airport



Bush
Bush

Costs:

The retreat costs include retreat fees, materials fee, hotel room for 6 nights, welcome dinner, 6 breakfasts, and 5 lunches. Arrival is April 27. Classes are April 28 through May 2. Check out is 11:00 a.m. on May 3.

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| Fiber Forum Members | \$1,450 |
| Fiber Forum Friends | \$1,500 |
| Other EGA Members | \$1,550 |
| Single Supplement | \$ 577 |
| Spouse/Guest Room and Meals | \$1,000 |
| Deposit: | \$ 450 |

Registration closes: December 31, 2024

Final Payment is due: January 15, 2025

To reserve your space, you may either scan or photograph your completed registration form and attach to an email to [Karen Waddell, kjswaddell@gmail.com](mailto:kjswaddell@gmail.com).

- EGA will invoice you for the deposit amount of \$450. If your deposit is not received before the next registration period opens, your registration will be handled with the next group of registrants.
- Participants will receive a second invoice from EGA when the balance is due.

Confirmation of your registration will be sent. Registrants will also be notified immediately if no spaces are available, and registrants will be placed on a waiting list. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

In March, 2025, registrants will receive additional retreat details and a list of participants.

For additional information or questions, please contact Karen Waddell at kjswaddell@gmail.com or 713-299-8671.