

Thread Sketching: Still Life with Three Fruits

a workshop with Susan Brubaker Knapp

Expand your machine free-motion skills while creating this thread-sketched and quilted still life. Students learn how to:

- fuse down the applique pieces
- create shading, dimension and texture with thread
- gain control and confidence when free-motion stitching
- stabilize the fabric surface
- choose the right threads and needles for thread painting
- correct tension problems
- layer with batting and free-motion quilt

SUPPLIES to bring:

- Two sheets or 1/4 yard Lite Steam-a-Seam 2 or Pellon Wonder Under
- Two pieces 12 x 12" very firm/non-stretchy interfacing, to be used as a stabilizer. Examples include Pellon 910, heavy weight Shaping Aid, or Pellon 806 Stitch-N-Tear. If it stretches at all, it will not work.
- FABRIC NOTE: I like to use batik because it is a bit heavier and it has a very tight weave, which provides more stability and prevents fraying. Stay away from light-weight fabric.
- Light tan/gray fabric for background, 11 x 7"
- Medium tan/gray for background, 11 x 4" (not too dark or it will show through the lighter fruit fabrics and shadows will not show up!)
- Medium red fabric for apple, 6" square
- Yellow fabric for lemon, 6" square
- White fabric for backing lemon, 6" square
- Light green fabric for pear, 6" square
- Cotton embroidery-weight (50 or 60 weight) thread in black, white, light tan, dark brown, dark purple, dark red, red-orange, dark orange, light orange, yellow, yellow-green, medium green and dark green (see photo). Examples include Aurifil Cotton Mako 50 wt., Mettler No. 60 fine embroidery cotton merc., or YLI Soft Touch. Note: 100% cotton thread makes it easier to adjust tension for threadsketching.
- Low-loft cotton batting, 12" square
- 12" square backing fabric
- paper scissors (sharp)
- fabric scissors (sharp)
- seam ripper
- sharp pencil (mechanical works best)



- white chalk pencil (mechanical ones by Bohin or Sewline work best)
- straight pins (quilting pins)
- light and/or reading glasses, if you need them
- Sewing machine – must be in good working order, able to drop feed dogs, and have a free-motion or darning/embroidery foot.
- manual for your machine
- three empty bobbins
- Universal or Microtex needles, 80/12 or 70/10
- extended surface for your sewing machine (if you have one; highly recommended)

Please e-mail me if you have any questions!



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