



# Craft Kit 43: MIXED MEDIA EMBROIDERY

108 CONTEMPORARY

*Art. Craft. Design.*

*Donna Davies, Juror*

VisionMakers2022

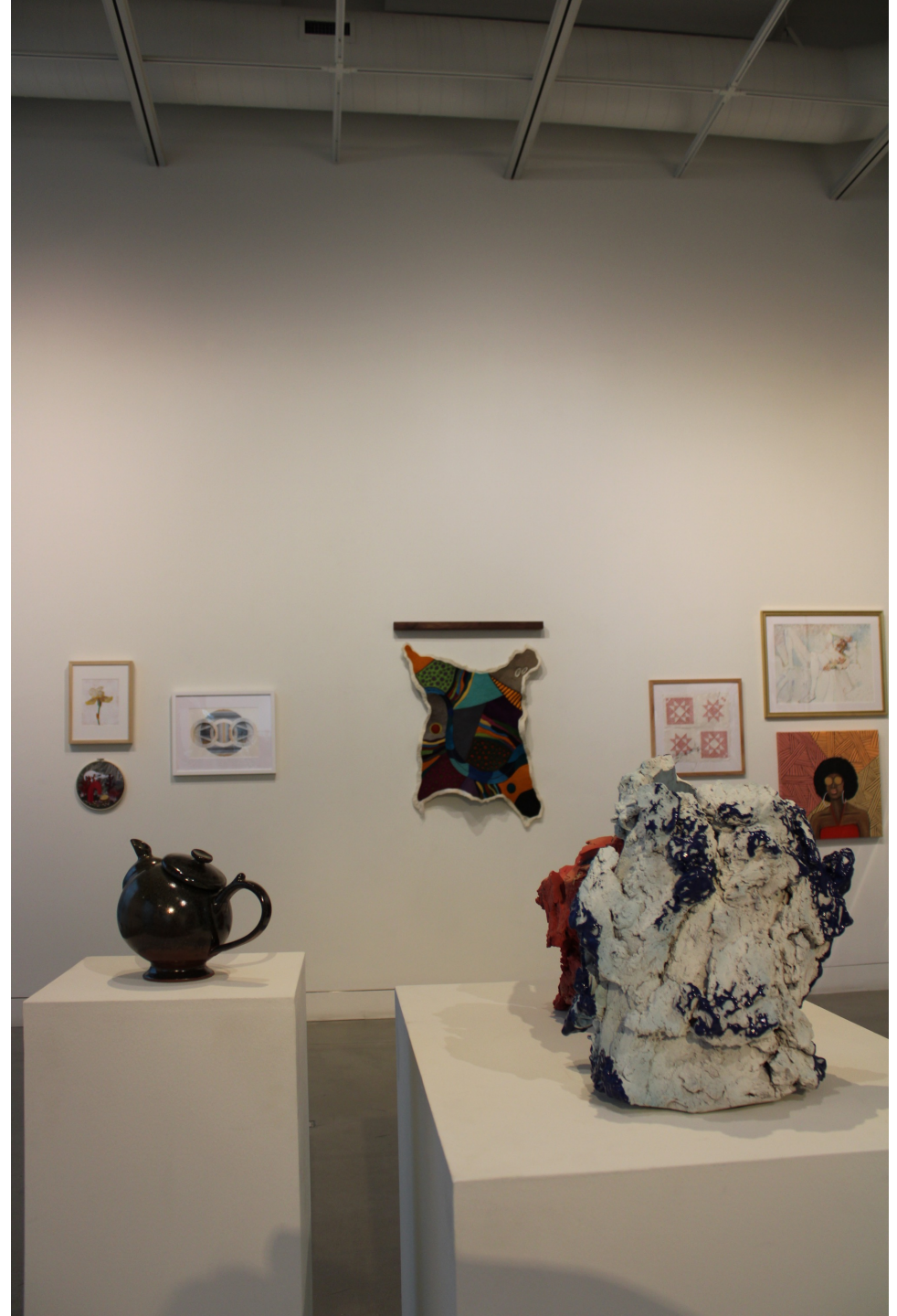
*Dec. 4, 2022–Jan. 22, 2023*



# Welcome to 108|Contemporary!

We are a non-profit gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma that specializes in contemporary craft. From December 2, 2022 through January 22, 2023, we are hosting the *VisionMakers2022* exhibition. This collection of fine craft features work by 33 artists from 5 states, and was juried by Donna Davies.

There's so much amazing artwork in *VisionMakers2022* that this craft kit was inspired by not one, but four different pieces! Let's look more closely at them before we make our mixed media embroidery.



# “Iris II” by Irmgard Geul

In her work “Iris II,” Geul first painted her background and flower on canvas. She then embroidered on top of it with a simple back stitch to add dimension and texture. Geul talked about how the process of pulling embroidery floss through paint ended up dyeing the threads as she stitched. She also said that she really liked the contrast between the flowing, organic shapes of the flower and the straight lines of her embroidery.



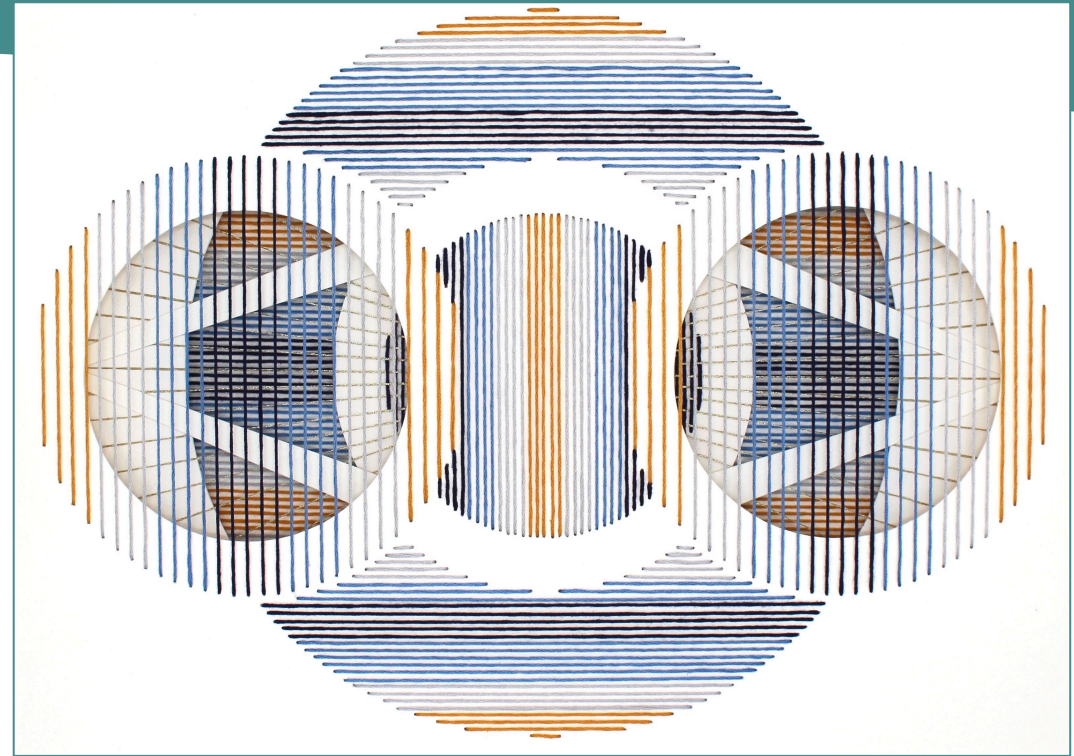
**“Iris II”** by Irmgard Geul. Images  
taken by Jack Dean



# “Moving Forward with Optimism” by Sarah Robl

Sarah Robl uses color, geometric shapes, and symmetry to invite a closer look. She cuts shapes into watercolor paper, punctures all the holes for her thread, embroiders, and then layers the pieces with foam board between them to add depth.

From planning and design, to a finished work of art, a 11” x 15” piece like this can take Robl a full month to complete!



**“Moving Forward  
with Optimism” by  
Sarah Robl**



# “Veil of Silence” by Taryn Singleton

Taryn Singleton first designs her fabric backing with abstract shapes. Her next step is to begin embroidering without a plan, building out shapes as she goes. One decision leads to another, accidents become the foundation for new elements, and the result is a fantastical “imaginary landscape.”

Singleton used 4 different types of stitches in this piece: back stitch, satin stitch, random stitch, and French knots

“Veil of Silence” by  
Taryn Singleton





# “Star Quilt” by Yurie Urano

Yurie Urano used traditional Japanese embroidery techniques and thread, called “sashiko,” on handmade paper. Yes, that’s hair inside the paper!

- What reasons might an artist have for including their hair in artwork?
- As a first-generation Japanese American, she says, the combination of her bright graphic stitches and her dark hair to explore concepts of lineage, heritage, and familial affection. What does “Star Quilt” tell you about her relationship with her family?



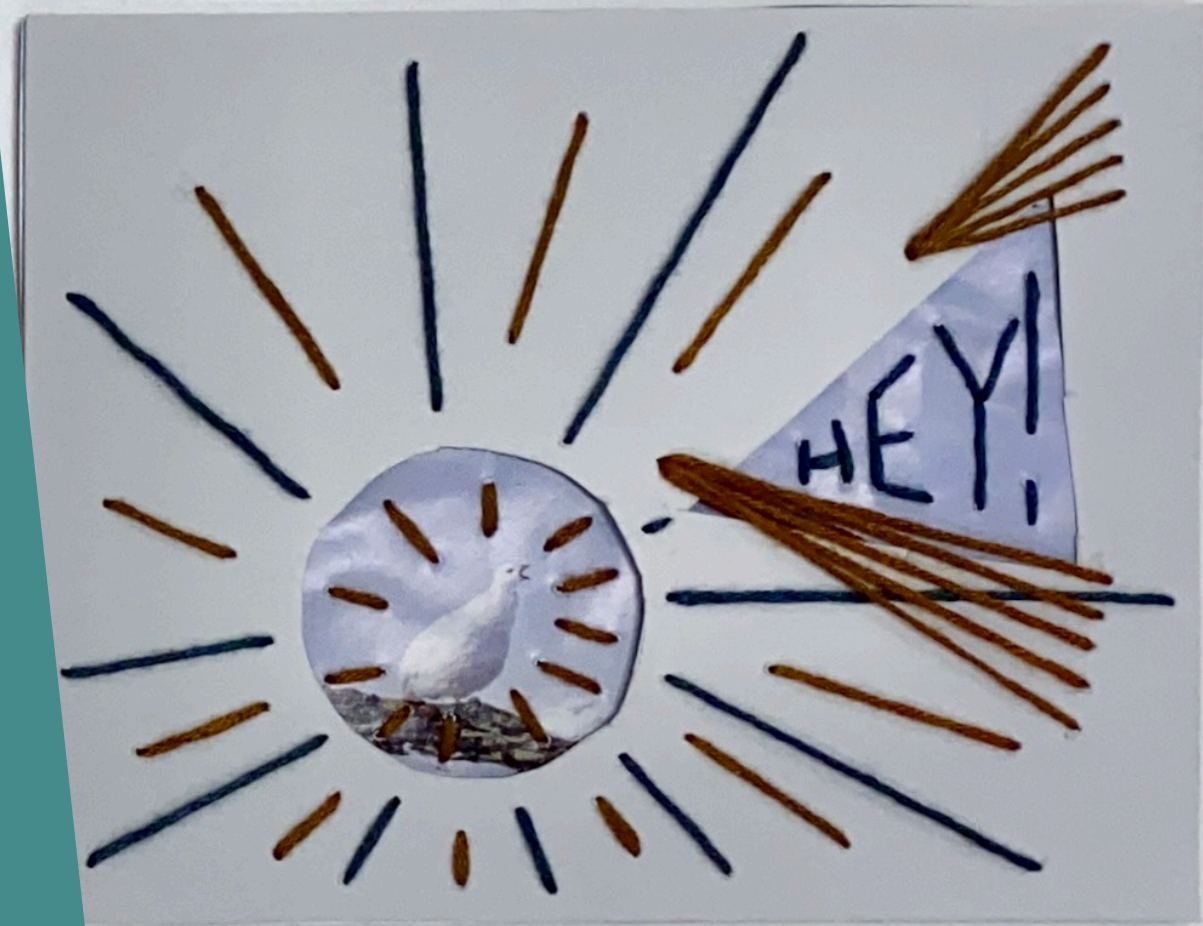
“Star Quilt” by Yurie Urano





# Mixed Media Embroidery Step-by-Step Instructions

Now that you've seen some inspiration,  
you're ready to make your own cutting-edge  
embroidery project. Follow along!

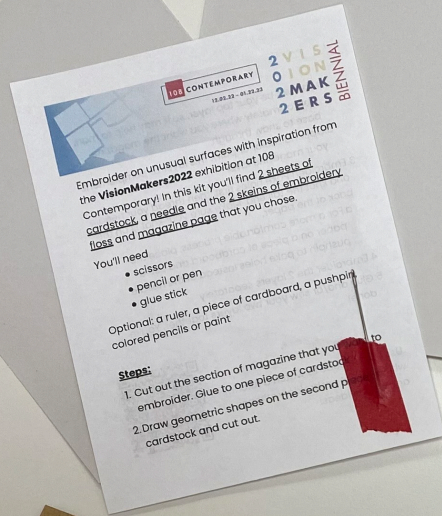




# Materials

## You will need:

- Needle
- Cardstock
- Embroidery floss x 2
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pushpin
- Cardboard scrap
- Pencil or pen
- Ruler (optional)





## Step 1:

Cut out the section of the magazine that you want to embroider.



Tip: use a cardstock piece to trace around the area first. Cut along the line you drew.



## Step 2:

Glue your cut magazine to one of your cardstock pieces.

This will give the image a stronger backing when you start embroidering on it. (If your image is already on stiff paper then you can skip this step.)

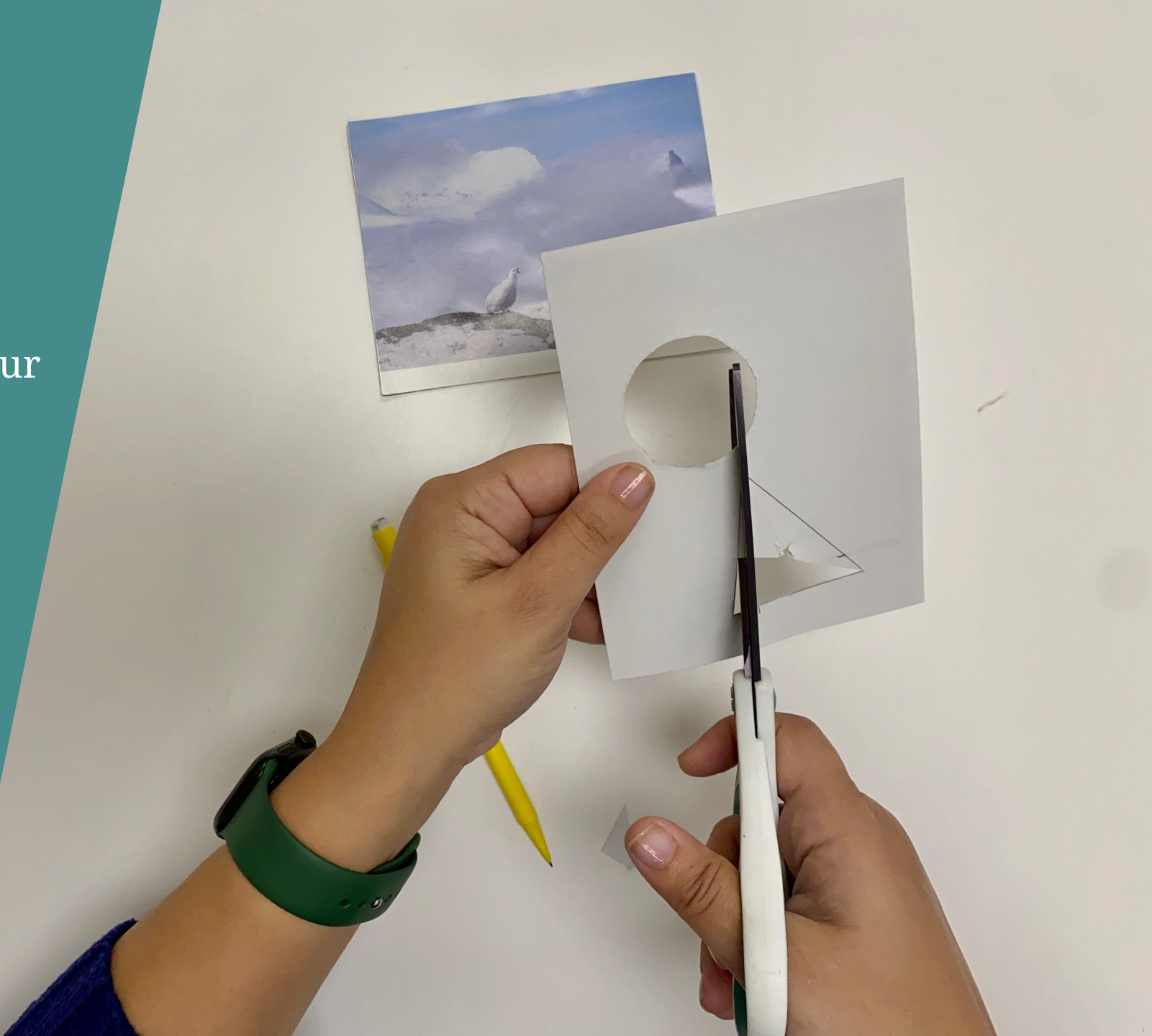




## Step 3:

Cut geometric shapes in your second cardstock

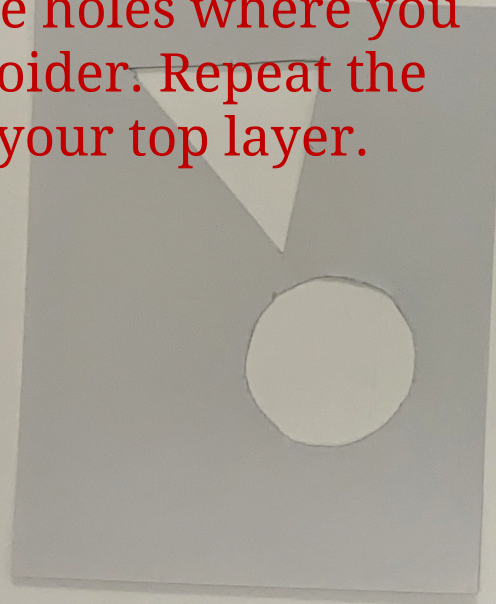
Tip: poke holes in the center of each shape to make room for your scissors. Cut lines to the corners of your shape (or to the edges of curves, like a pie slice). This will help keep your paper from wrinkling as you finish cutting!





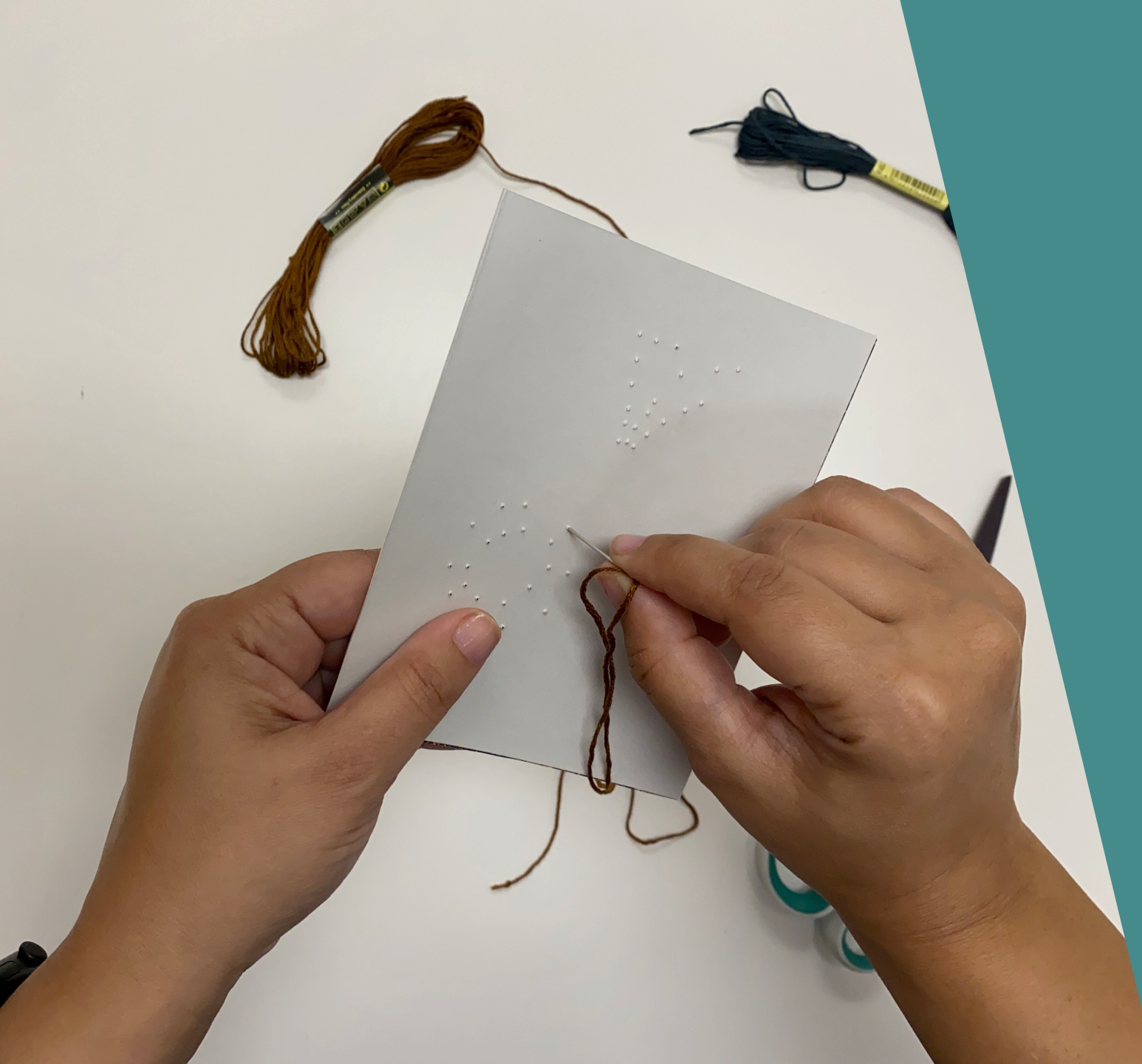
## Step 4:

Lightly trace the shapes you cut onto the magazine image. Use the pushpin to poke holes where you want to embroider. Repeat the process on your top layer.



Watch a video about different stitches you can use on our [YouTube channel here](#).



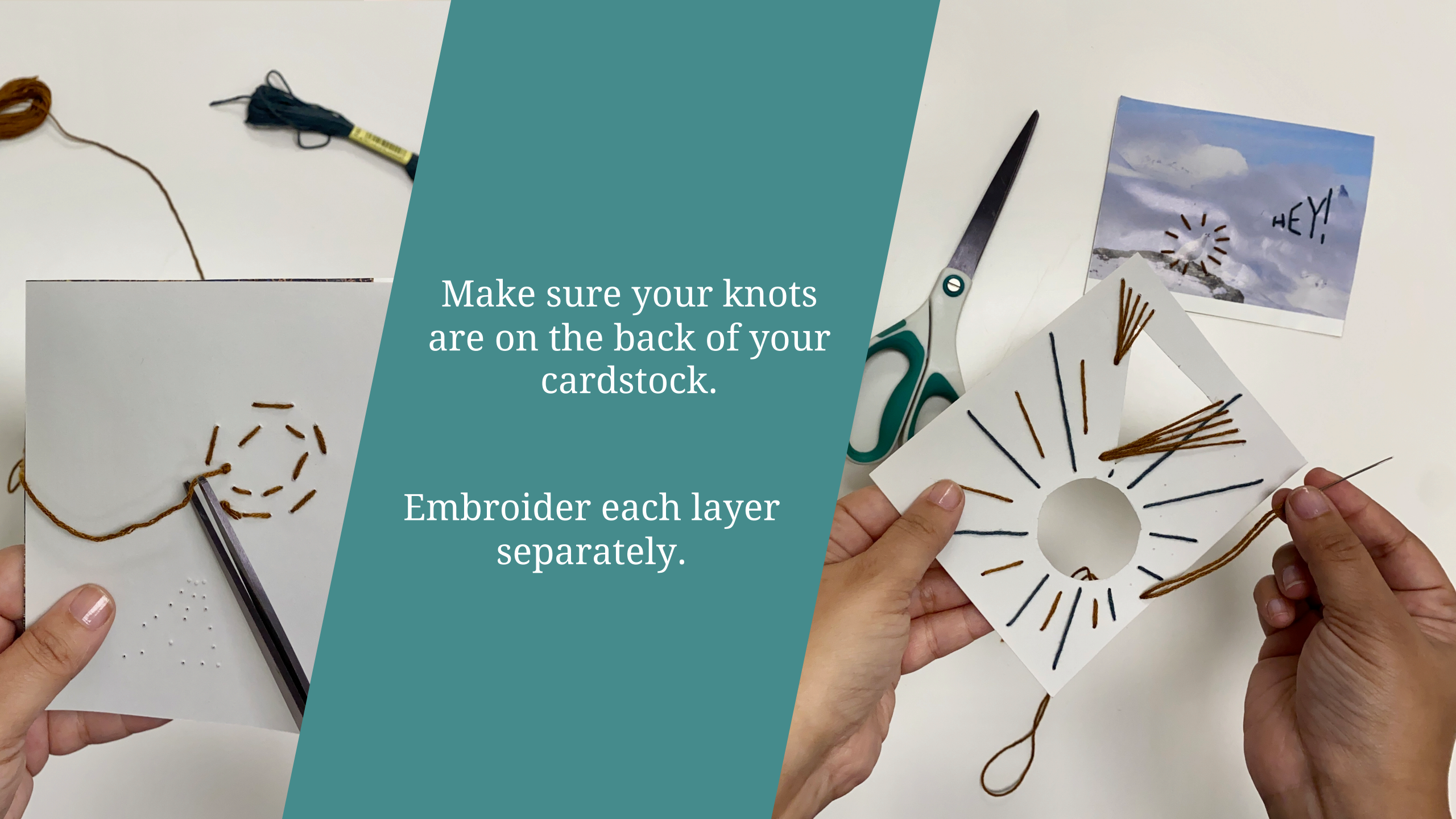


## Step 5:

Embroider! Thread your needle. You may need to separate strands first if the eye of your needle is small.

Knot only one end of your embroidery floss. This makes it easier to remove your needle and backtrack if you make a mistake.





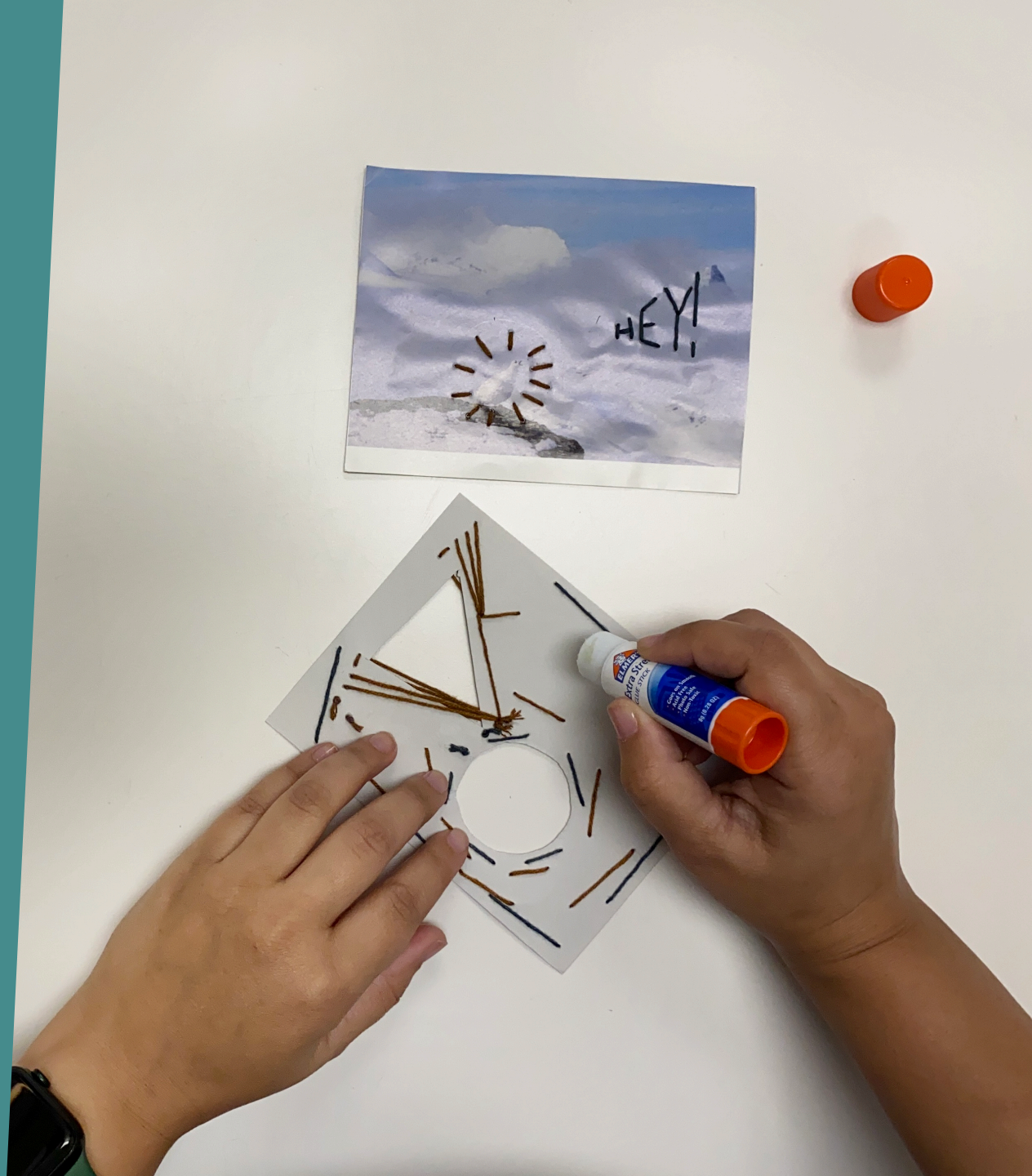
Make sure your knots  
are on the back of your  
cardstock.

Embroider each layer  
separately.



## Step 6:

Glue your top layer to the magazine layer.



Tip: if your glue isn't working to combine the layers, stitch them together in the corners.



## Step 7:

Display your mixed media embroidery with pride!



Share your (CRAFT KIT) with us on social media by tagging @108contemporary and using the hashtag #108craftkits!



# Other Resources

Learn about our other Craft Kits:

- <https://108contemporary.org/craft-kits/>

*VisionMakers2022* Juror's Talk with Donna Davies:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsMD4QsC9nI>

Mixed Media Embroidery Step-by-Step Videos:

- Introduction
- Stitches
- Instructions

