

# CRAFTKIT



## VISIONMAKERS 2016 Abstract Embroidery Craft Kit #11

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lay out materials and come up with an idea of what shapes and colors you would like to use.
2. Using a pencil or pen draw shape on fabric.
3. Carefully cut out shape and pin on felt.
4. Select thread color and carefully pull apart strands of the thread.
5. Using one thread at a time, pull the thread through the hole in the needle and tie a knot on the end.

For more information about the artist and step-by-step instructions,  
visit: [www.108contemporary.org/resources](http://www.108contemporary.org/resources)

Use the hash tag #108CraftKits when sharing your artwork on social media!

# CRAFTKIT



6. Try using the Running Stitch to attach fabric to the felt or using multiple color threads with the Whip Stitch.
7. Use multiple Running Stitches or Whip Stitches to create shapes on the felt.
8. Use Couching Stitches to add lines.
9. Work with various combinations of stitches and fabrics to create you own creative abstract embrodiery.
10. Enjoy your work!

# Abstract Embroidery

Craft Kit #11

Classroom  
Educational Component

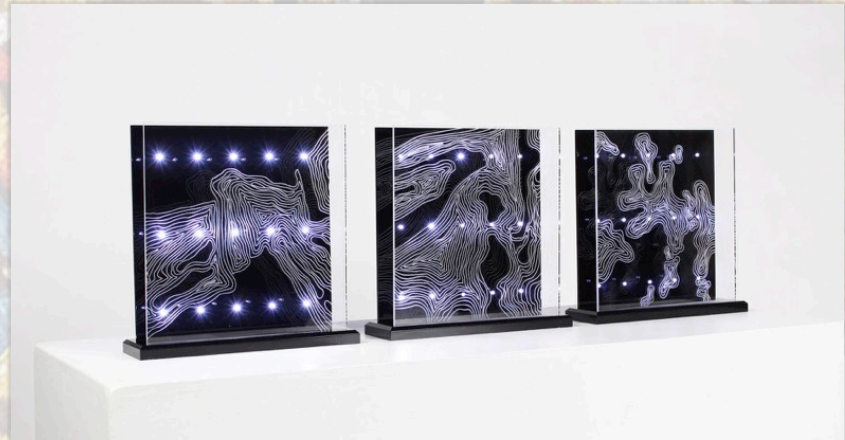


108 CONTEMPORARY

*Art. Craft. Design.*

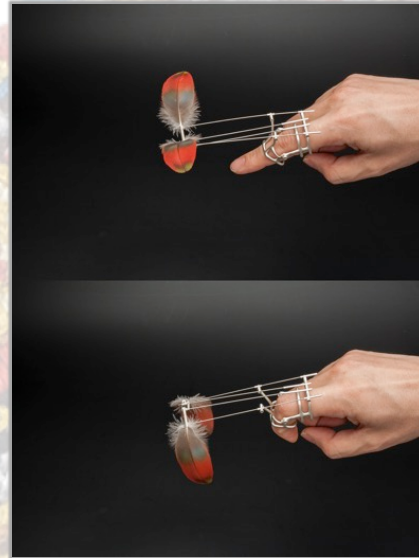
# About the Show: VisionMakers2016

This show is a juried exhibition spotlighting Oklahoma and regional contemporary fine craft artists, including artists from Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arkansas, and Missouri.



# What is a juried show?

- A juried show is when an artist sends images of their work to a judge or panel of judges to be selected for presentation in a show based off a list of criteria.
- Once the final show selections are made the judge or panel of judges will sometimes select works for prizes and awards.



# Embroidery in the Show

- Many artists used embroidery in the show. Some embroidered by hand while others use the assistance of a sewing machine.
- Threads of various color and texture are used to create images as well as more abstract designs.
- Fabrics can also be incorporated to enhance the design.



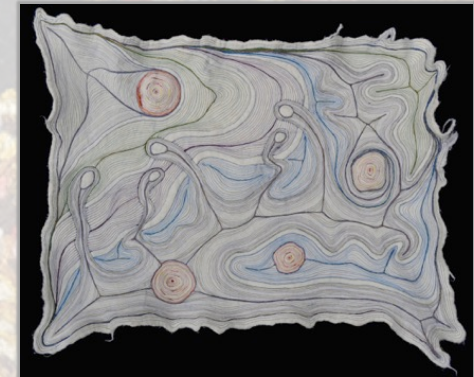
# History of Embroidery

- Embroidery is the handicraft of decorating fabric with a needle using thread or yarn. The work may also include various materials such as beads and fabric.
- Embroidery is first seen in pre-history to stitch clothing together, although it is uncertain if the work was decorative or for practical use
- Modern embroidery's roots are found in China dating back to 3500 B.C.



# More History

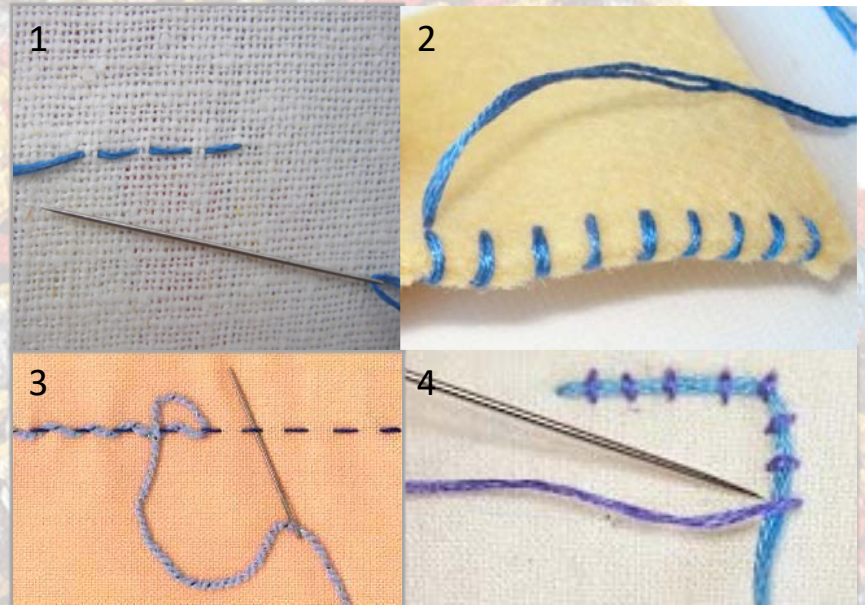
- In the 17<sup>th</sup> century embroidery was a sign of high society in Medieval Islamic cities like Istanbul.
- During the 18<sup>th</sup> century needle work on canvas grew in popularity and was found on furnishings and hangs.
- Much of the embroidery seen today is done by a machine, but still many artists choose to work by hand.





# Techniques in Embroidery

1. Running Stitch- basic stitch that looks like a dashed line; up, down, up down.
2. Whip Stitch- another basic stitch that makes a row of stitches parallel to one another. If it is on an edge, the needle motion is down, down, down, down.
3. Whipped Running Stitch a line of running stitches with a contrasting color threaded trough each stitch from top to bottom
4. Couching- a thread held secure by small running stitches
5. Any stitch, or combination of stitches, can be used to add fabric to the work.



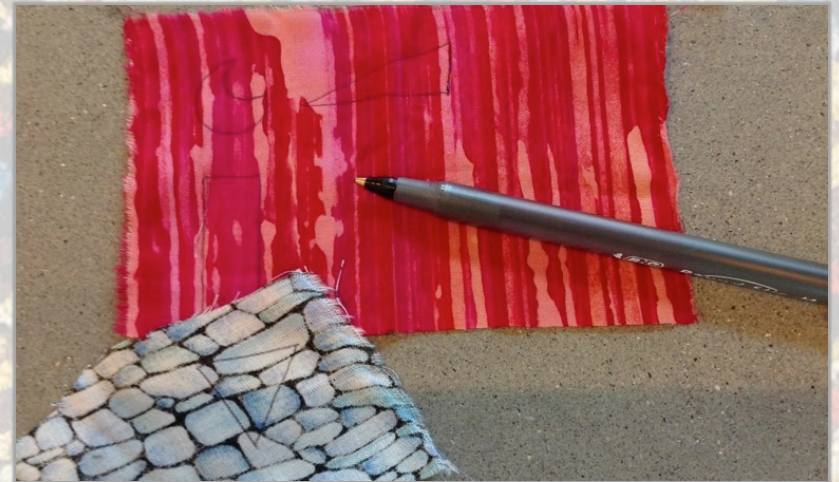
# Abstract Embroidery Craft: Materials

- Felt
- Embroidery thread
- Various fabric
- Needle
- Scissors
- Pen or Pencil



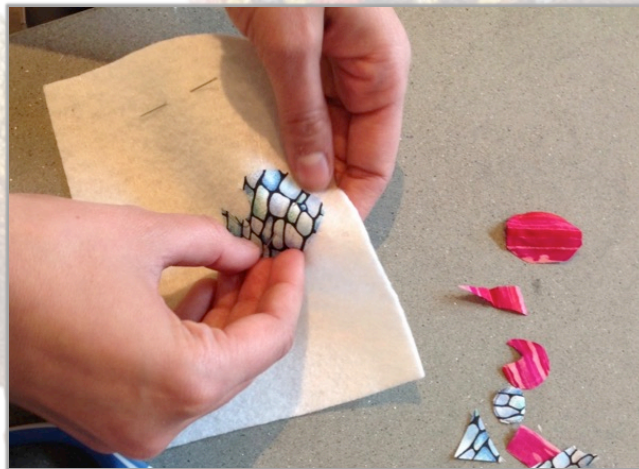
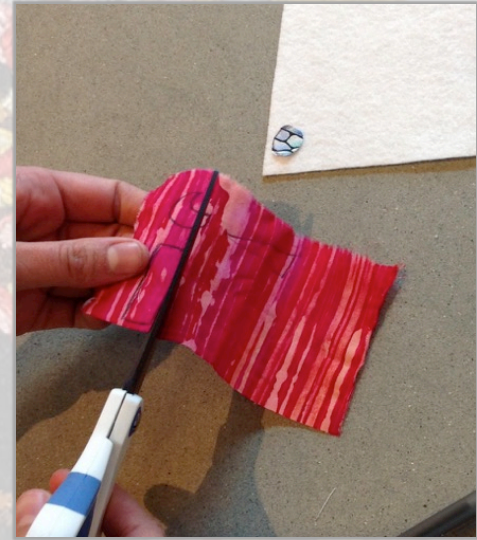
# Step One: Plan

- Look at the various colored threads and fabrics.
- Come up with an idea of what shapes and colors you would like to use.
- Decide what shapes to cut fabrics.
- Using a pen or pencil draw shape on fabric.



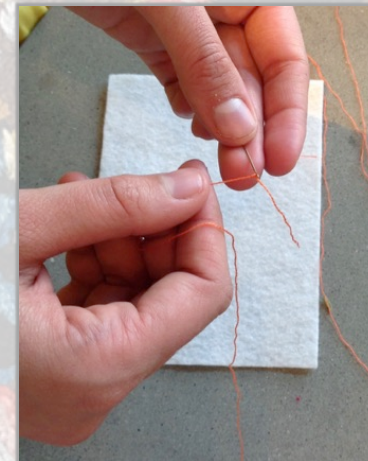
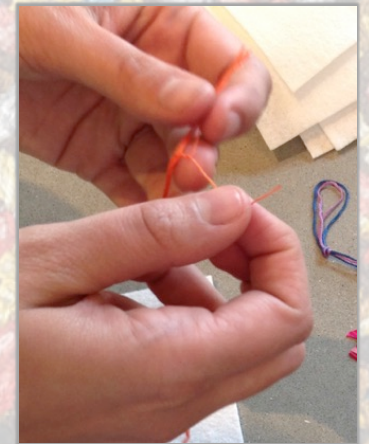
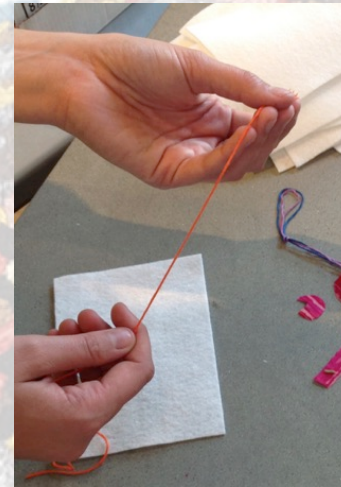
## Step 2: Cut and Pin

- Carefully cut each shape out of the fabric.
- Pin down.



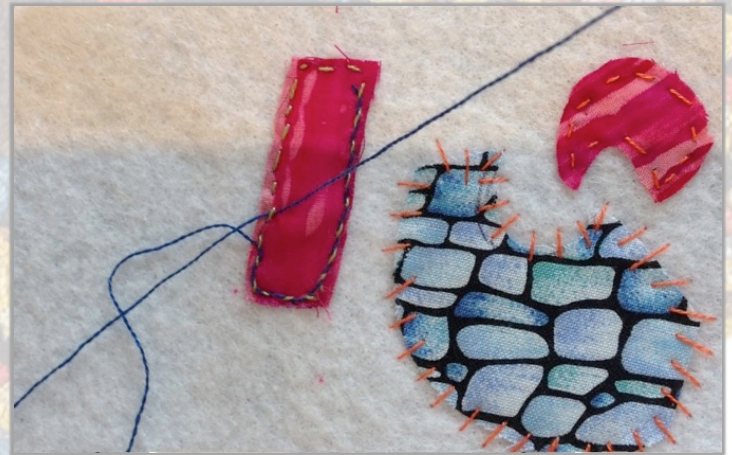
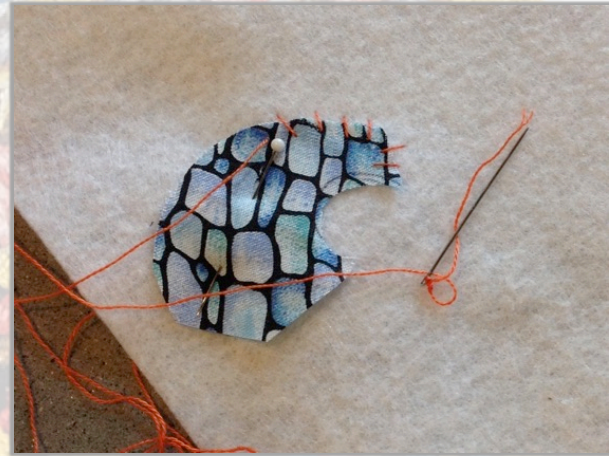
## Step 3: Thread Needle

- Select a color of thread.
- Carefully pull apart strands of the thread.
- Using one thread at a time, pull the thread through the hole in the needle and tie a knot on the end.



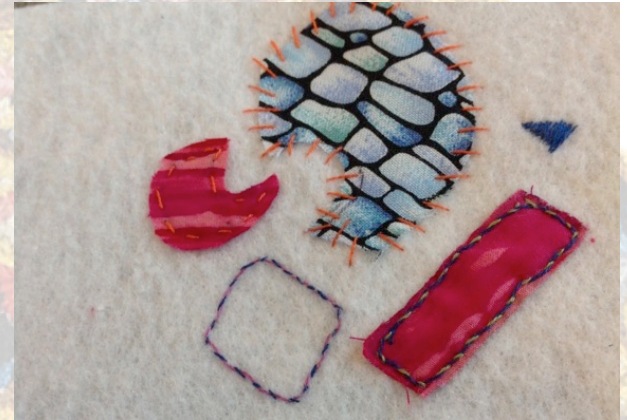
## Step 4: Embroider

- Try various stitches to create abstract imagery.
- Try using the Running Stitch to attach fabrics to the felt.
- The Whipped Running Stitch can be used with multiple colors.



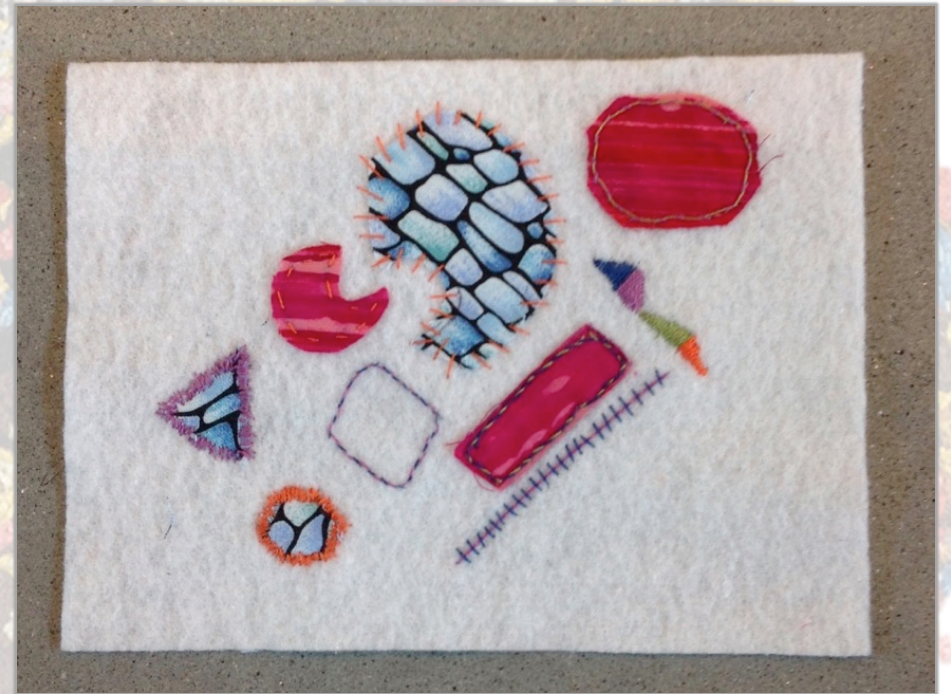
## Step 4: Get Creative!

- Use multiple Running Stitches or Whipped Running Stitches to create shapes on the felt.
- Use Couching Stitches to add lines.
- Work with various combinations of stitches and fabrics to create your own creative abstract embroidery.



## Step 5: Enjoy

- Step back and enjoy the wonderful abstract embroidery art you have created!





# Resources



- Watch the juror's talk:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCeyGEQQJ67o3hthu4ln7GQ>
  - Learn more about the history of embroidery:
    - <http://stitchedupbyphoenix.co.uk/a-history-of-embroidery/>
    - <http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/e/embroidery/>
  - Learn more stitches:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff9-1ZPAdSs>
    - <https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2014/04/hand-embroidery-stitches/>
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