



**Raised embroidery originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century combining different embroidery and needlelace techniques. Traditionally showing historical or biblical subjects often on wooden caskets or mirror frames. Stumpwork today can be used to illustrate a contemporary narrative.**

**AIM** – To work a Stumpwork embroidery figure demonstrating an understanding of design and technical skill in the choice, application and use of fabrics, threads and technique.

### DESIGN

Try to come with some ideas for your design. Your design source(s) should be clear and crisp. The tutors will be able to make suggestions and help you bring your ideas together to create your own original design.

When creating a design for stumpwork, proportion is key. This should generally be realistic, but if not then it should be deliberately out of proportion (e.g. large figure next to a tiny castle, which is quite traditional).

**Do be flexible in your approach, listen to your tutors' experienced advice and be prepared to alter your initial ideas if necessary.**

- The finished size should sit comfortably within A4 measurements, 21cm x 30cm (approximately 8in x 12in)
- The stumpwork figure should measure 10cm – 12cm.
- It is best to avoid bare shoulders and wrists on figures because of joins.
- Props should be carefully considered and usually should be made rather than bought.
- Try to choose a design where the techniques will fit naturally (needlelace in particular) and not look out of place.
- Try not to depend on “found” or bought accessories and embellishments – if needed, generally they should be made.
- The figure must have:
  - A worked face
  - A padded body
  - Worked hand or hands
  - At least 4 ‘slips’ as part of the figure’s clothing or background; at least two of which should be needlelace stitches (to be worked separately and applied)
- The piece should also use a variety of the following techniques:
  - Embroidered slips
  - Detached embroidered shapes
  - Wired organza shapes
  - Wrapped beads
  - Wrapped wire
  - Buttonhole and needle-woven picots
  - Appliqué
  - Surface stitching

### MOUNTING

The final piece should be mounted onto mount board, with wadding between the embroidery and the board. This will cushion any plunged ends and prevent lumps on the front.



**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** Please see *Project Evaluation* sheet for details

### TIPS

- Keep needlelace slips neat and keep tension even. Make sure that needlelace is consistent at the edges of shapes with no gaps.
- Make sure wire covered hand(s) are worked smoothly and that no wire shows through the wrapped thread. Hands should be of an appropriate size – discuss with your tutor.
- Make sure your embroidered or canvas slips, if used, are turned back accurately with no raw or frayed edges showing.
- All your raised embroidery techniques, such as covered beads, or picots, need to be neatly worked, with good tension.

### MATERIALS

Background fabric: calico, cotton, linen or silk, with the option to paint.

Figure: felt, wadding, paper covered or florist wire.

Stranded cottons, perlé, Appleton's wool, coton a broder, and other threads.

Please discuss materials specific to your design with your tutor.

Needles: A good selection of all types.

### BOOKS

- Barbara and Roy Hirst "Raised Embroidery" ISBN 978-1853915789
- Kate Sinton 'RSN Essential Stitch Guide: Stumpwork' ISBN 9782756521992
- Barbara Hirst "Raised Embroidery: A practical guide to decorative Stumpwork" ISBN 978-1853912030
- Ros Hills & Pat Gibson "Needlelace Stitches" ISBN: 0-85219-758-6
- Xanthe Brooke "The Lady Lever Art Gallery – Catalogue of Embroideries" ISBN: 0-7509-0149-7
- Jane Nicholas "Complete Book of Stumpwork Embroidery" ISBN: 978-1863513418

### STOCKISTS

- Royal School of Needlework (wires) [www.royal-needlework.org.uk/retail](http://www.royal-needlework.org.uk/retail)
- Blue Ribbon cake shop, East Molesey (paper covered wire)
- John Lewis (ribbons, fabrics) [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)
- VV Rouleaux (ribbons and trimmings) [www.vvrouleaux.com](http://www.vvrouleaux.com)
- The Silk Route (Silk dupion) 01252 835781 [www.thesilkroute.co.uk](http://www.thesilkroute.co.uk)
- MacCulloch & Wallis (Silks, fabrics, threads) Dering St, (Nr Oxford St) London 020 7629 0311 [www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk](http://www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk)
- Oliver Twists Tel. 0191 416 6016 (space-dyed threads and fabrics)
- Stef Francis (space-dyed threads/fabrics) Tel. 01803 323004 [www.stef-francis.co.uk](http://www.stef-francis.co.uk)
- JG Threads (space-dyed cotton, rayon & fabrics) Tel. 01202 73525 [www.jgthreads.com](http://www.jgthreads.com)

**2019-2020**  
ACADEMIC YEAR

**ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK**

**DIPLOMA**

**STUMPWORK**



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



Royal School of Needlework, Apartment 12a, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey KT8 9AU, UK  
T: +44 (0)20 3166 6932, F: +44 (0)20 8943 4910, E: [enquiries@royal-needlework.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@royal-needlework.org.uk), W: [www.royal-needlework.org.uk](http://www.royal-needlework.org.uk)

A Company Limited by Shares and Registered in England No.12192C with Registered Office at above address.  
Registered with the Charity Commissioners No.312774, VAT No. GB238871626



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



PROJECT EVALUATION

NAME.....

DATE.....

**As you work your embroidery, please think about and record how you achieved the various assessment criteria listed below, and record why you made various decisions affecting your embroidery. These questions ask you to reflect on your embroidery work, which helps you gain a deeper understanding of what you have learned in class.**

Please sign and date the form and hand it in with your work for assessment.

Assessment Criteria:

**1. First Impressions**

- The work is well presented and clean with no alien fibres/10
- The paint lines and tacking stitches are not visible /10
- The thread condition is good. The thread is not fluffy or thin and retains its sheen and twist /10
- There are no dirty marks, fluffy or worn areas /10

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**2. Design**

- The design is well adapted for the technique of stumpwork /20
- There is an appropriate use of stitches giving a range of textures and surfaces enhancing the interpretation of the design /15
- The design is balanced and creates a pleasing image /10
- The image has been placed squarely on the grain and the background fabric is appropriate to the technique /10
- Surface stitches and embellishments are neatly worked and enhance the design /10

.....

.....

.....



.....  
.....  
.....

**3. Slips**

- A variety of textures has been used to reproduce the different elements of the design /20
- Slips have been applied securely with small invisible stitches /25
- Needlelace slips have been worked neatly with an even tension /30
- Needlelace slips have a neat edge and are shaped appropriately for the design /25

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**4. Figure (Head, Face and Hands)**

- The figure should be padded to achieve a realistic form; padding should be smooth and firm /10
- The head should be padded smoothly with appropriate contours /15
- The head should be neatly applied with small invisible stitches /10
- The face should have well-positioned, neat features and realistic complexion /10
- Hair should be appropriate to the design and neatly stitched/applied /10
- Wire hands should be appropriately coloured and wrapped smoothly with no wire showing /15
- Hands should be a realistic size and shape and should be positioned appropriately /15

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



**5 Mounting**

- The board has been cut with 90 degree corners and straight edges /5
- The design is placed straight on the board with a suitable area allowed at all edges; the fabric grain is straight to the edges of the board /5
- Wadding has been evenly distributed on the card /5
- The linen is pulled tautly across the board to remove creases, bubbles and puckering /5
- There are no pinpricks visible along the edges of the board /5
- The corners of the fabric have been folded neatly and are square and flat /5
- The sateen is on the grain, taut and clean with square corners and even rebate /5
- The slip stitches are consistently of even size with no slip stitches or pinpricks visible /5

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



The following questions encourage you to reflect on your embroidery work and your experience at the RSN. They provide helpful feedback so that we may continuously improve what we do. In order to provide anonymity, the following page is separate. Please sign and date the bottom of this page and hand in with your work.

Embroidery

What did you enjoy most in stitching this piece? Why?

.....  
.....  
.....

Did your decisions work well and are you satisfied with the results?

.....  
.....  
.....

What did you find most challenging in working this piece? Why?

.....  
.....  
.....

What, if anything, would you do differently in the future?

.....  
.....  
.....

Did the design evolve over time and were you influenced by your tutor, fellow-students or other source to develop your original ideas?



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



.....  
.....  
.....

The next time you employ this technique, what aspects of the design and/or embroidery will do you differently?

.....  
.....  
.....

Signed.....Date.....

**Teaching & Environment**

Which aspects of the teaching were particularly helpful to you in working this piece?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Was any part of the teaching advice confusing or unhelpful in any way?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Is there any advice or instruction that would have been helpful to you if it had been given during your classes?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



**2019-2020**  
ACADEMIC YEAR

**ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK**

**DIPLOMA**

**STUMPWORK**



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



What is your opinion of the materials provided by the RSN for this project?

.....  
.....  
.....

Do you know of any additional resources (books, textiles collections, websites etc.) that will help future students in this technique?

.....  
.....  
.....

Did you enjoy the learning environment at the RSN? Is there anything we could improve?

.....  
.....  
.....