



Goldwork means the embroidery of metal threads onto a variety of fabrics, but usually velvet, silk or linen. Frequently used for ecclesiastical and ceremonial embroidery, but can be used very effectively for contemporary and innovative designs. Contemporary metal thread embroidery encourages textural, light reflective surfaces to show metal thread in a different non-traditional form.

AIM – To work a piece of metal thread embroidery demonstrating an understanding of the use of threads and techniques to an advanced level of technical skill. The piece should also show creative thinking in the choice and application of a variety of metal threads to enhance the design. Designs should not be directly copied from other sources; referencing, interpreting or stylising shapes or designs is acceptable however designs should be original you, which your tutor will encourage you to do.

Sample a wide variety of creative techniques before tackling your final piece. A selection of your experiments should be used to produce your final piece. We recommend spending at least 2 teaching days on the samples before you finalise your design.

Please note: All preparatory work (e.g. drawings, stitch plans, samples, original source material) MUST be presented appropriately and handed in for assessment or the work will not be marked.

DESIGN

- Final design size approximately A5, 15cm x 21cm (approximately 6in x 8.5in) and can be 2 or 3 dimensional.
- Choose techniques to demonstrate creative use of metal thread, see suggestions below. A minimum of 6 different creative techniques must be demonstrated.
- Coloured metal threads may be used where appropriate, but please note this does not in itself constitute a creative choice. (Also note that coloured metal threads are softer, more delicate and can be damaged easily). Some of these are stocked at the RSN but you may also source your own.
- Express creativity through what you do with the materials. Consider damaged and tarnished metals.
- Consider which techniques can be combined in a creative way.
- It can be helpful to consider what you usually shouldn't do with the materials and try that. Try materials that are not traditionally used for a technique.
- Consider techniques in goldwork traditions from other countries/cultures such as Spanish, Indian or Russian.

STITCHES

Threads for laying e.g. passing, Japanese thread, twist, rococco:

- Couch/puff
- Layer
- Loop
- Directional
- Cord
- Or Nué



Pearl Purl:

- As wire edge
- Twist
- Curl
- Coil
- Cord
- As a frame
- Loop
- Thread through
- Wrap
- Cut and sew as pieces

Other Purl:

- Couch
- Raised
- Looped
- Masses
- 3-dimensional
- Destroy and lay as massed curls
- Wind own purl

MOUNTING

The final piece and samples should be mounted or presented in an appropriate way. If mounted on card make sure that the fabric is taut, the grain is straight with the board and that the sateen is taut and neatly applied.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Please see *Project Evaluation* sheet for details
Please note the samples will be assessed with the final piece.

TIPS

- The assessors are looking for accurate stitching of good quality and a general understanding of the importance of good preparation.
- The originality of the design will be considered. The assessors will look at how the stitches and threads have been used to the best advantage in the design.
- You must provide a full project evaluation form explaining why various decisions have been taken with the design and use of threads.
- In Creative Goldwork you are encouraged to use threads in a non-traditional way, but you must still adhere to the basic rules: fabric, metal threads and stitching threads should be in good condition; stitches should be of good tension and hold the metal threads securely without distortion; padding should be invisible, firm and secure.
- Consider the effect you are trying to achieve when working with the materials.

2023-2024
ACADEMIC YEAR

ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK

DIPLOMA

CREATIVE GOLDWORK



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



MATERIALS

- Student's own choice of fabric and threads which are suitable for the chosen design.

BOOKS:

- Tracy Franklin "New Ideas in Goldwork" ISBN 0-7134-8780-1
- Helen McCook "RSN Essential Stitch Guide: Goldwork" ISBN 978-1844487028
- Hazel Everett "Goldwork" ISBN 978-1844486267
- Alison Cole "The Midas Touch" ISBN 978-1920892418
- Alison Cole "All That Glitters" ISBN 978-1844483136
- Mary Brown "Goldwork Embroidery Designs and Projects" ISBN 978-1863513661

STOCKISTS:

- The Royal School of Needlework Shop 020 3166 693 www.royal-needlework.org.uk/retail
- Benton and Johnson (metal threads) www.bentonandjohnson.com
- Golden Threads www.goldenthreads.co.uk
- John Lewis (fabrics) www.johnlewis.com
- The Silk Route (Silk dupion) 01252 835781 www.thesilkroute.co.uk