

SKILLS & STUDIES COURSE



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

OVERVIEW

‘Hand Embroidery: Skills and Studies’, is an e-certificated sampler-based course exploring, learning and developing stitch and embroidery techniques, whilst studying and researching traditional, historical, domestic, international and contemporary embroideries and textiles. The course was developed and taught by Tracy A Franklin, and piloted onsite from September 2024.



DESCRIPTION

This is a visual, practical and modular based course, where each module is themed on technique, subject or design, and taught over 6 lessons either onsite, online, or as an intensive course. Each lesson is 6 hours of tuition, including regular breaks. Each lesson whether onsite or online is taught 3-4 weeks apart giving time to finish one sample and prepare for the next. The intensive is also taught over 6 lessons within ten days, with a day or two off for rest or private study in-between.

It is a sampler-based course where four, 2-inch or 5-centimetre squares will be worked each lesson, based on traditional, historical, domestic, international and contemporary study, whilst considering elements of design such as line, texture, colour, tone (value), shape, space, and form, as appropriate. Students will be encouraged to think about colour choices, contrast, proportion, direction, scale, rhythm, repetition etc.

Each module has a similar format, and will produce 24 samples in total, which includes learning traditional methods and techniques, and experimenting with new approaches. The outcome for each student is a personal body of work which can be used as an archive and reference, made into a cloth book, or mount into a body of work.

For most modules, the four samples can be worked in a bound 10-inch embroidery hoop, using a double layer of medium weight neutral fabric as the base. The exception is canvas work, which will use stretcher bars or an equivalent.

As the course develops, more modules based on technique, subject or design will be added, and students will be able to register with the modules of their choice. There

will be no compulsory modules and no order into which they should be learned making learning flexible and catered towards the student.

In contrast to the RSN Certificate & Diploma in Technical Hand Embroidery, where designs are produced, worked and adhered to by brief criteria, which in turn are mounted, and assessed, stitch techniques may only be stitched once to fit within a design format. Whereas the Skills & Studies course offers the opportunity to experiment, develop and learn more of the possibilities of one stitch or technique.

Furthermore, there will be no assessment, or sending in of work. Fulfilment will come from what you have learnt, sampled, experienced and created for yourself. During lesson time, everyone will be working on the same ideas together, whereas Certificate & Diploma is more individual.

The cost of each module is £750.00 for six days of tuition, which can be paid by instalment. Payment is made via a secure online booking system, where reminders will be sent out. To make bookings official, the RSN will ask for a non-refundable £50.00 deposit which will be included in the overall fee.

All bookings are on a first come first served basis, however modules will continue to be repeated onsite at different venues, and online. Should you be interested in any of the modules listed which is not currently available, let us know, and we will be in touch as soon as they are, giving you first choice to book.

To sign up to an up-and-coming module contact us by emailing skills@royal-needlework.org.uk. We will register you onto our secure online booking system where you will be sent invoices, and where payments can be tracked and paid.

Once registered, along with the deposit, you will be sent an equipment and materials list, along with preparation notes. We hope in most cases, you will be able to source your own threads and materials, with some guidance, or use what you have already available.

After each class, a brief, and other relevant documents will be sent to you to help you continue your work. If you're learning online, a recorded Zoom link will be sent out after each class.

On completion of each module, where all samples are finished, completed and presented in digital form, either via email, or another alternative, you will be awarded an official Royal School of Needlework Hand Embroidery: Skills & Studies e-certificate, relevant to the module you completed.