

november news letter 2019

Rabbit hat
designs



www.rabbitatdesigns.com

Welcome to the third ever rabbit hat designs newsletter! As we head towards holiday season, I'm feeling increasingly festive! Fall has been a yoyo of snow and sun here in Colorado. If you're on instagram you may have seen my fern series. Over the last few months I have been all about the love of these ancient plants. They are so full of lush greenness and life. I'm working towards a series of ferns on tulle (a mesh see-through fabric) featuring some of my favourites as well as suggestions from my fellow stitchers, friends and instagramers. Feel free to reach out if there's a fern you'd love to see in stitch! With a little fern research I thought I'd share some facts and folklore in this newsletter after sharing some quick updates...



updates

Here are some quick updates for what is happening at camp rabbit hat designs. I'm so excited to say that I have been asked to take part in the Improper City Holiday Market in Denver on 15th December, check out 'upcoming events' on my website www.rabbitatdesigns.com for more info. As its holiday season I'm already into finding unique and crafty gifts for my friends and family. In case you're doing the same, I'm about to add all sorts of nature makes to my etsy shop!



1st december 

You can even find your own fern friend! I'll update the shop on the 1st December so remember to check in at rabbitatdesignsshop.etsy.com.


the love of ferns



I've been loving ferns lately and the ancientness and familiarity of them. Ferns have been on the planet dating back to 360 million years! And recent research suggests maybe even more! They are in a relatively small group of plants that have been around so long and still relate to people now. Imagine so many generations recognising the same leaves and shapes. Most ferns have rhizomes which are underground stems from which leaves grow. These rhizomes form complex networks underground. Did you know the leaves of ferns have their own unique name, which is fronds? Here's some fern folklore and fun facts about them. In Finnish folklore anyone who finds a seed of a fern in bloom on a midsummer night will be guided to hidden treasures marked by aarnivalkea, which are normally invisible. In Slavic folklore seeing a 'fern flower' predicts a happy and wealthy life. Ferns have no seeds or flowers, so I can see how seeing a flower would definitely spell something unusual afoot. Ferns reproduce with spores and each fern is made up of extensive and intricate branching vein systems, one of my favourite things about them.

satin stitch

As promised in the last newsletter, this month's 'how to' is a satin stitch. I was using these stitches before I realised what they were called! They are simple rows of stitches that are used to create full areas of colour. They are often vertical or horizontal but can be diagonal too!

 With each stitch you come up through the fabric at the top or bottom of where you want your stitch to be and end your stitch by guiding your thread and needle back through your fabric at the opposite end of your stitch. For your next stitch you want to come up right next to the top or bottom of your first stitch, so that you create a row of stitches nice and tight together with no gaps.

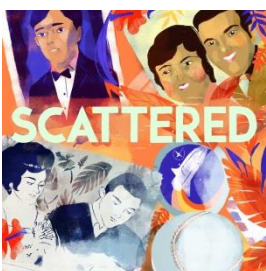
Following the sequence of stitches on the right here (the red arrow shows where you would have come up through the fabric for your first stitch) you would then start your following stitch right next to where you started your first stitch. As if you are wrapping your



thread around the front and back of your fabric over the area you want to cover in a top to bottom rhythm with your stitches. When you create each following stitch you are often completing a whole stitch behind your fabric as well, which can use a lot of thread, but if you want to save thread you can end a stitch and start the following stitch right next to where you finished the previous stitch. This stitch has a lovely rhythm and covers areas of patterns in a smooth, satiny finish. As an example here is where satin stitch is used in one of my kits to fill different shapes within a butterfly pattern. The great thing with this stitch is that you can break designs into smaller shapes and use satin stitch to create blocks of colour. I hope that makes sense! Happy stitching!



out and about



Here's where I share listens, reads, film and arts that inspire or interest me. I've heard some amazing podcasts this month which have been so distracting that I've hardly listened to any music or read anything! Scattered is a WNYC podcast by comedian Chris Garcia who delves into family history and cultural identity told with such warmth. It's an emotional and worthwhile listen! As a heads up there are some themes around trauma which may be difficult for some listeners. The second

podcast which has been an amazing listen is Tunnel 29 presented by Helena Merriman for Radio 4 and can be found on the BBC radio 4 website about a small group of men who tunnelled back into East Berlin to smuggle families from East to West Berlin. The story is really gripping and beautifully told. Photo on the right is from theguardian.com.



As holiday season special use the code RABBITHATNEWS for 20% off any order on Etsy for this month!

thank you for reading

Next month look out details of an exciting new challenge I'm setting myself and anyone who wants to join in for 2020!