

Ancient Icons

Supply list (2 pages)

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In this class, students will make a collection of stabilized fabric 'tiles' and then use beading, embroidery, stamping and painting to embellish them. These tiny treasures can be used individually as fiber art jewelry, artist trading cards or combined into larger assemblages. In class you will make several tiles. The arrangement shown represents one possible assemblage of tiles and not necessarily a project finished in class.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-631-8806 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

TOOLS/MATERIALS:

- **Fabric:** The top fabric for your tiles should be an interesting print; something that has a great variety of patterns and motifs that beg for embellishment. Less ornate fabrics can also be used as a sort of blank canvas if you prefer to create your own motifs with stamped designs. See guide at the end of the list
- **Embroidery stabilizer:** Choose a thin stiff stabilizer will be used that has the body of heavy card-stock. Thinner stabilizer can be doubled if needed to provide good stability. It will remain in the project so use a cut away type as opposed to tear-away or water-soluble.
- **Lightweight fusible web:** Some of your embellishment may involve hand stitching for embroidery and/or beading so choose a light fusible web that can be hand stitched through.
- **Felt:** This will be the backing on the tiles. It can be inexpensive craft felt but my preference is a better quality acrylic or wool/rayon blend felt that is heavier and has more body
- **Sewing machine:** an embroidery/zig zag foot (preferably open-toed) will be necessary for finishing the edges of your squares with a neat covering of satin stitching and a free motion foot if you plan on adding any free-motion stitching to your tiles. Bring extra needles – machine quilting or top-stitching in size 11 or 12 and possibly 14; the needles get dull quickly sewing through the fusing and stabilizer.
- **Seam ripper:** This will be very helpful when maneuvering small squares of fabric into the machine while finishing your edges and to rip out mistakes..
- **Thread:** In a color that harmonizes with the fabric. For the edge stitching, it can match the fabric or contrast nicely – whichever you choose. The thread can be cotton, rayon, or poly-sheen type polyester embroidery thread.
- **Rotary cutter, 6" square cutting ruler and small mat:** make sure your cutter has a very sharp new blade in it; a non-slip type ruler will also help.
- **Scissors:** A pair of 'craft' style scissors for cutting threads, trimming fabric etc.



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- **Hand sewing needles:** For embroidery (if you wish to embroider by hand) and for beading. For the beading, I have found that a milliner's needle in size 10 or 11 will go through most seed beads. You can also use 'embellishment' or beading needles (**not** bead-weaving needles).
- **Needle Puller (optional):** This is a small rubber disk made by Dritz. It allows you to grasp a needle firmly and wrestle it through dense material if you are having trouble getting the needle and thread through the multiple layers on your tiles.
- **Lighted Magnifier (optional):** Embellishing the tile is close work and a magnifier will be helpful particularly for beading).
- Embellishing materials: Anything goes here but a list of suggestions follows.
 - ❖ **Buttons, beads and/or sequins plus beading thread** (I prefer Nymo or Silamide for beading)
 - ❖ **Fabric paints with stencil brushes, sea sponges, stamps, stencils, Pigma Micron pens...** (I will bring my collection of stamps and homemade stamp pads to share with the class)
 - ❖ **Embroidery floss/threads.**
 - ❖ **Baubles and trinkets, bits of jewelry, drilled coins, sea shells, wire...**



Choosing Fabrics for Embellished Art Tiles

There are basically three options when it comes to choosing fabrics to make your art tiles.

- 1 – A fairly plain fabric with a little visual or physical texture and few variations of color, motif or pattern; this will provide lots of area to be filled with stamped, painted or drawn designs of your own creation and embellished with beads or stitchery. These tiles will need an ample amount of creativity on the artist's part to make them interesting.
- 2 – A fabric with some printed features but also some open areas to allow you to add stamped, drawn or stenciled designs and motifs as you wish. The printed features can be a guide to set a style or theme and provide some designs to enhance with beads or stitchery.
- 3 – An intricate print with lots of details that could be encrusted with beads and stitchery. This may be the best option if you don't feel creative when it comes to drawing or adding painted/stamped motifs of your own and would prefer having specific designs to follow – sort of like gilding the lily.