

# Stumpwork – Sea Anemones

## Supply list (2 pages)

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You won't find a more fascinating array of flora and fauna in astounding shapes and colors than in a tide pool. At the top of the list is the ephemeral 'flower of the sea', the Sea Anemone. Not actually flowers but animals, Sea Anemones are related to corals but resemble flowers so that many people assume they are plants. They come in all imaginable colors, some with long tentacles, and some with short. In their 'open' active state they do look like flowers with tentacles radiating from a center 'mouth'; when disturbed or in low water situations the anemone draws in its tentacles and resembles a rounded pillow with a center depression. For color ideas, Google 'Sea Anemone Images' and prepare to be amazed. Stumpwork is a form of dimensional hand embroidery that rose to popularity in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Used to decorate jewel boxes, framed art and other novelties, stumpwork usually featured pastoral elements rendered in stitches that created texture and sculptural form.

These embroidered and beaded Sea Anemones must be seen – and touched – in person to appreciate the sensuous tactile feel of them. Once you touch them, you won't be able to stop running your fingers over them.

**Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or [helene.m.knott@gmail.com](mailto: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 'Base'**\* (see note below): You will need a stable fabric to support the weight of the bulky stitching and bead work. You can use ordinary quilters' cotton backed with an embroidery stabilizer but I prefer a heavier fabric. Upholstery fabrics are an excellent choice and can be purchased as remnant scraps at many fabric stores. Look for prints that are splotchy or tweedy, some-what abstract or that resemble the rocky, sandy, seaweed strewn bottom of a tide pool. Hand dyed/painted canvas is also a good choice. A piece about 12" square will be adequate to learn on, and will be large enough to incorporate into a quilt block or small pillow if you wish.
- **Anemone Centers**\* (see note below): Over-dyed wool or wool/acrylic felt in appropriate colors of choice (look at sea anemones online for ideas). I like to make the 'open' anemones lighter than the closed ones, two 8" squares in appropriate colors will be enough for plenty of Anemones; even scraps that measure at least 3" can be used.
- **Embroidery Floss**\* (see note below): Six strand floss and/or #5-8 Perle cotton in appropriate colors. Perle cotton is particularly good for the 3D- detached Buttonhole Stitch tentacles. The number of color choices and how many skeins of each you will need will vary based on how many Anemones you decide to make. I find I can get several anemones done with one skein of floss. You will need a color for the anemone 'mouths', a color for the anemone body and a color for the tentacles – variegated Perle Cotton is particularly

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nice for the tentacles. Look at Google images of sea anemones for color ideas. For the ‘closed’ anemones which are stitched with French Knots, one color of floss in 3-4 value steps will be required; 1 skein of each will be enough for a whole ‘smack’ of them (smack is the collective noun for jellyfish, there is no collective noun for Sea Anemones).

- **Embroidery Scissors and utility scissors:** fine pointed embroidery scissors are best for the sewing, but you will also need a pair of utility scissors for the template plastic.
- **Crewel Embroidery Needles\* (see note below):** make sure the eyes are large enough to accommodate the floss you are using; a package of assorted sizes might be better than just of one size.
- **Rubber Needle Grabber (optional):** it can be hard to pull an embroidery needle through heavy material, having a rubber needle grabber may help.
- **Pencil:** an ordinary wooden pencil; this will be used as a ‘spacer’ to set the size of loops for the tentacles.
- **Beads\* (see note below):** Seed beads in sizes from 8 to 13 in choice of colors. Note: a slightly larger seed bead in a different color can add a nice touch to the tip of the beaded tentacles. How many beads you will need depends on how large your anemones are, how densely you pack the tentacles and how many beads you use for each tentacle (mine range between 5 – 8 beads including the tip bead). I find that a standard (3+ oz. ‘tube’) will make tentacles for 2-3 anemones; the beads can be all one color or you can make beautiful blended tentacles from colors that transition from one shade to another.
- **Beading thread\* (see note below):** Nymo (in size A or B) will work as well. Do not try to make the beaded tentacles with ordinary sewing thread, it is not strong enough.
- **Beading/embellishment needle\* (see note below):** Choose a strong thin needle (not the fragile bead-weaving needles) especially if you are sewing through heavier fabric like upholstery goods. I have found that the thinner (size 10/11) Milliners’ needles often work well. Make sure whatever needle you choose will be able to go through your seed bead – **twice** (back through after one strand of beading thread has been passed through the bead) and that you can manage to thread the eye.
- **Clover ‘Ultimate’ Needle Threader (optional):** This little contraption that looks like a medieval war machine goes well beyond those little wire tabs that you still have to get through the eye of the needle (and break readily)
- **Beading Mat or a jar lid\* (see note below):** something to spread and contain your beads to make them easier to pick up with the needle.
- **Fabric Marking Pen:** a Frixion pen or Pigma Micron pen in a color that will show on the felt.
- **Embroidery Stitch Guide Book (optional):** I will demonstrate the few simple stitches I prefer but having a good basic stitch guide book will allow you to explore more options. Ones authored by Sue Spargo are particularly good but I also like The Embroidery Stitch Bible, by Betty Barnden.
- **Pattern:** I will provide a handout with a master pattern
- **Kit\* (optional see note below):** \$40 payable to instructor in class

**NOTE:** You may bring your own beads and beading (beads, beading thread, and beading needles) purchased from a bead or craft store. The instructor will have a few kits with the materials marked with an asterisk on hand in a variety of colors. Each kit will make a small sampling of 2-3 ‘open’ and several ‘closed’ anemones.