



Seasonal Slow Stitching Project March Supplement

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Look back to look forward



Before moving onto a new seasonal snippet roll let us take the opportunity to look back on the one we have just either finished for 'rested' to be picked up again later in the year.

Some wee questions -

What was the experience of your first snippet roll like? What were the highs, what were the lows?

Find your favourite section on your snippet roll. Why is it your favourite section?

What colours did you gravitate towards and why?

What stitches did you use? Did you have a favourite?

If you could change anything about the experience of your first snippet roll what would it be and why?

New season, new gather.

What are you gathering for your new seasonal snippet roll?

Have you identified a colour palette? If so, what is included?

Do you have a plan for this new snippet roll or is it to be an organic process?



Painting Fabric

Although we asking us all to use what we have it doesn't stop us manipulating what we already have in our stash! you haven't tried painting fabric this wee project might be the perfect excuse to give it a go. Although there are various paints and mediums you can use I would recommend starting with fabric paints as these are fit for purpose. There are lots on the market but a good starting brand would be pebeo fabric paints. You can dilute if you want a lighter shade. You can also use silk paints if you want paints with maximum flow. I use both in my work. I would also recommend you start with a medium weight calico fabric as it is relatively inexpensive. If you don't already have that try old cotton sheets. You can buy specialist frames for painting on fabric. However, it is just as easy to use freezer paper as you iron your fabric onto the shiny side and then it won't move as you paint. I take it off the freezer paper to dry. Once your fabric is dry you will need to 'fix' the paint with a dry iron (don't use the steam setting). Try experimenting with different weights of fabric remnants or scraps you already have.



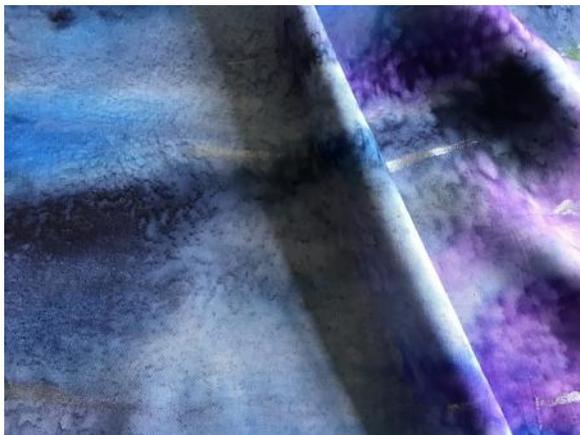
Fabric painting on calico



Fabric painting on muslin



Fabric painting on a range of fabrics to include calico, old sheets, muslin and silk.



One of my favourite fabrics to paint on is bamboo silk. I appreciate you are unlikely to have that in your stash but I thought you might like to see the effects you can get on it. Although better than silk in terms of animal cruelty it is not that sustainable I am afraid as it takes a lot of water to produce. I use it very occasionally for commissioned work.



I often get asked about colour. I take my lead from two areas. The first is colour theory and the second is the natural and found worlds. Colour theory helps you figure about how colours behave near each other or as they are mixed. I recommend getting a colour wheel as it is full of useful information. A small exercise you can try is to place an object that you have found or gathered and place it on the fabric. Taking your lead from it start mixing and laying down colours. Move away from the first colour into new colours that you think complements the original colour.



Another good colour exercise is to create some watercolour squares of colours you think you might want to start with in your fabric painting. Then pick up your favourite ones and mix your fabric paint. All the while you are working this closely with colour your learning is deepening and your confidence grows.



This mottled effect is created using either diluted fabric paints or silk paints. Don't let the paint pool on the fabric. If that happens just lift the excess moisture away with a piece of kitchen towel. Once you have applied the paint drop some salt onto it. In this example I have used rock salt but table salt works as well. Leave the fabric to dry naturally or dry with a heat gun or hair dryer - these drying methods will give you different results.

You can use your painted fabric as a base and stamp on top using rubber stamps. You will need ink designed for fabric though. For example [versacraft](#).



You can put a resist down before you start painting using a white wax crayon or a specialist batik wax pot. These pots are expensive and so I recommend just using a wax crayon in a snippet roll project. Once the paint is dry you need to iron off the wax using lining paper or newspaper. You can stitch in detail.



You can use your painted fabric as a background from which to layer fabrics. One of my favourite things to do is to layer organza fabric - I call it painting with organza. Polyester organza fabric comes in all sorts of beautiful colours but sadly is one of the unsustainable fabrics. On the island I am known as the 'scrap lady' and I get given lots of offcuts of organza. This is a super way to use them.



In the piece above you will see a blend of hand painted fabrics with commercial fabric. This is a great way to highlight particular colours in your work.

My painting experiments



Seasonal shapes

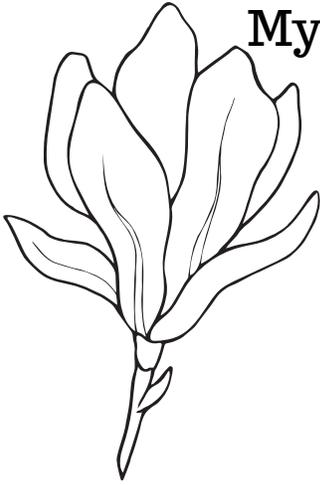
With the shifting season comes new shapes. In spring the bud is a wonderful way to represent the season in your work. I work with shapes in different ways but I only have to look in my glue book for reference material. I began this book last summer and I am now hooked. It is my go to thing when I need to spark some joy back into my life. I get given the very damaged books that come into our island charity shop. With pages missing and/or damaged they can't be sold. I use them as I would a sketchbook. But first, I glue a pages together to given me a stronger surface to work with. My rule of thumb is glue two, remove two just being careful of the signature structure in the book (a signature is a group of pages stitched together).



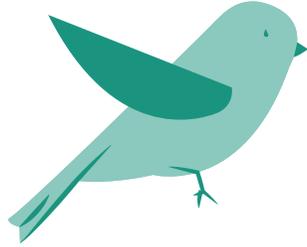
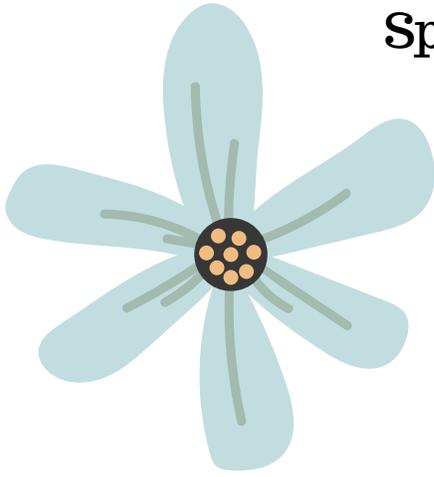
I also like to work with simple lines to record changing shapes in the natural world. I start with a photo and work out from there. In this example I actually used my iPad and app called procreate but a sketchbook does just as well.



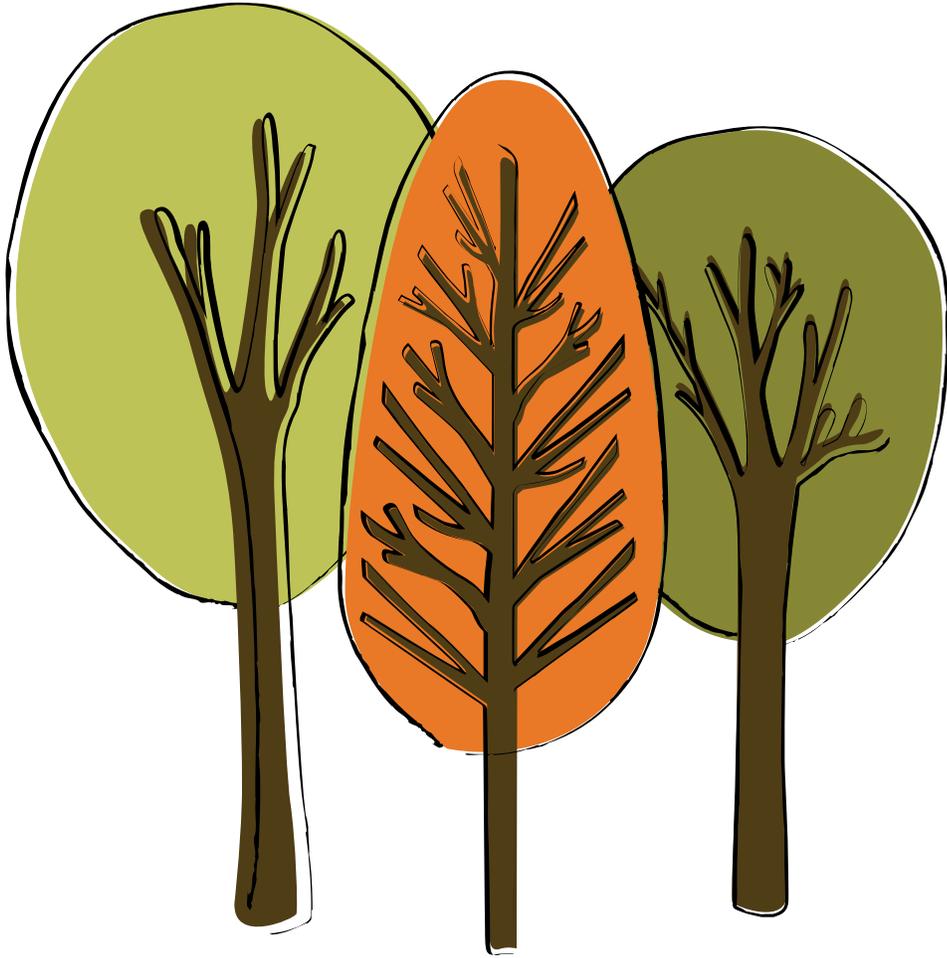
My record of seasonal shapes



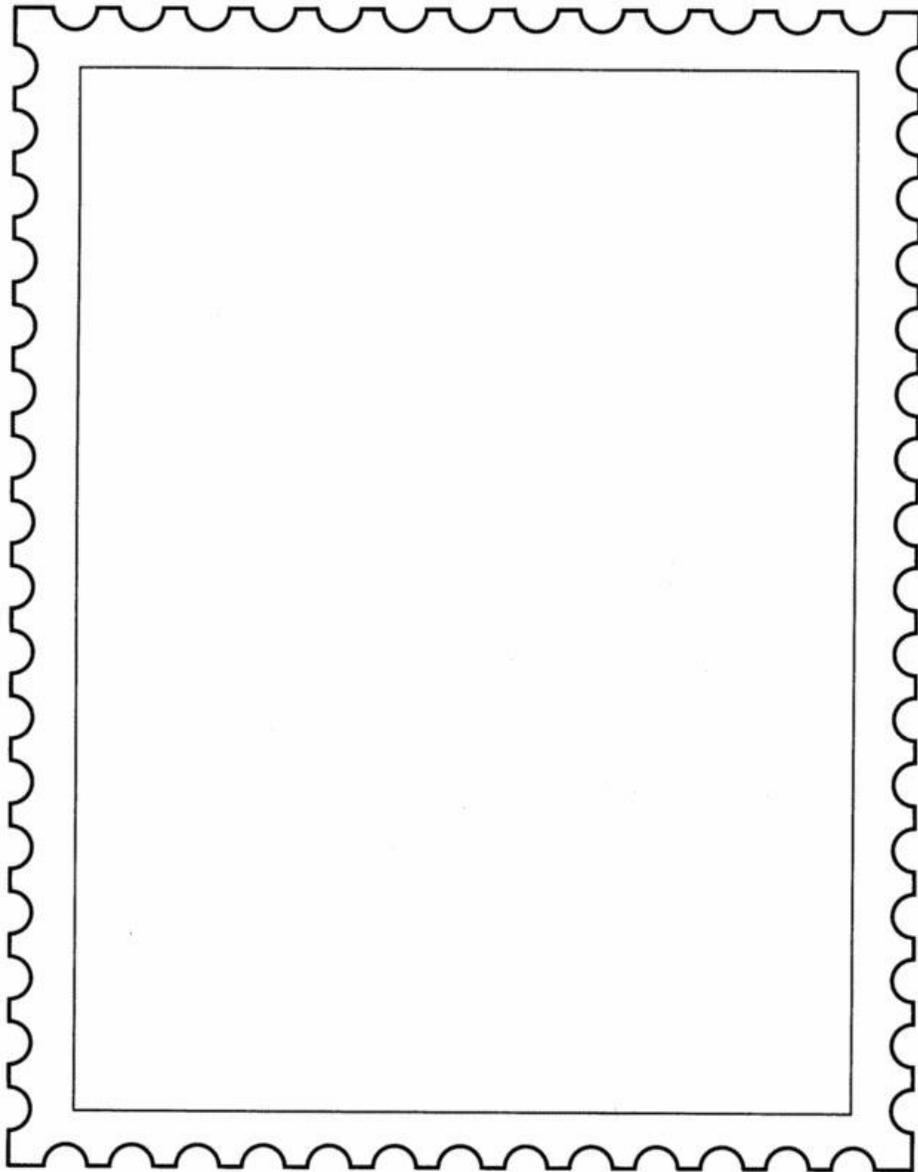
Spring inspiration



Autumn Inspiration



Design a stamp for your new season



Some seasonal musings

