

Amy's

needlework supplies & classes

APR/MAY 2018

JUMPING INTO SPRING FROGS AND ALL

what's inside this month

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AND MORE!

Finally, spring is starting to appear, although some of you may still have snow covering your daffodils. This time of year we're anxious to get outside and start preparing our yards for summer. We all know that spring calls for longer days with more sunshine; all the more reason to squeeze in a few more needlepoint projects. Our shop is blooming with bright colors, clubs and brand new stitch guides. It makes us happy just to walk through and look.

Stitching is a L.E.A.P. (Learn, Enjoy, Apply and Persevere) of faith, but we all have those moments when we make mistakes. The best way to fix these errors is with the frogging stitch, which is another term for undoing or ripping out stitches. In this issue, Amy gives us some wonderful and useful tips for how to RIPIT.

Happy Stitching and Happy Spring!

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NEW PRODUCTS



From left to right: Red Kitchen (6), Zinnia (5), Candy (5), Paperdolls (6).

WHIMSY BUTTONS

This assortment of fun buttons might be just the "jazz" you need to attach to your canvas. Over the years I have seen many fun canvases by Zecca, Ruth Schmuft, and Maggie Co. decorated with assorted buttons, beads, and furbelows for some pretty fantastic results. Wandering through the knitting section at the last trade show I found these fun buttons. Each package contains assorted coordinating designs but are not all identical (perfect for needlepoint). The package assortments are unique and will vary slightly in design from each order. I love them and am now on the prowl for a canvas that could use a few cute buttons.

Each package contains 5 or 6 buttons.

COST: \$5⁰⁰/PACKAGE

THREAD MAGIC

This handy dandy little tube of magic prevents fraying on fabric and ribbon. It dries quickly and clear with a soft and flexible feel, but always check to see if it leaves a darker or lighter spot on your threads if you are planning on using it in a "visible" spot. There is an ULTRA fine precision tip for pinpoint accuracy in the application. Fray Block is washable and dry cleanable. The product is made in the USA. The instructions are easy to understand and there is even a YouTube video. Visit www.junetailor.com for more information.

COST: \$5⁵⁰



NEW PRODUCTS

WATER BEADS

We have two new bead packs available in the shop to use for water effects on your canvas. 4mm Round Crystal beads are perfect for dew drops or small bubbles of water. They are a perfect sphere of crystal like a large seed bead with a single hole drilled through the center for attaching to your canvas. Think outside the box and decorate a colored vase with them, or attach them to the design of a perfume bottle or large image of a highball glass around the base. Use Crystal Fireline for an invisible attachment or colored SLon thread for an added design element of color line through the center. 8mm Glass Candy beads are round bubble-like beads that are flat on one side and domed on the other. They have two holes drilled for securing them in place without shifting or rolling on your canvas. These larger bubble-like beads are more like air bubbles under water or foam bubbles on the beach. Use your imagination and attach them over Christmas Lights or candy sprinkles on a cupcake to add color to them. Again use Crystal Fireline for an invisible attachment or colored SLon thread for an added design element of color lines on either side like railroad tracks running through the bead.



COST:

16" STRING OF 4MM
ROUND CRYSTAL
BEADS \$8⁰⁰

APPROXIMATELY 20-
8MM GLASS CANDY
BEADS \$6⁰⁰



EGG-CUP PINCUSHIONS

One of our talented local artists has painted these darling wooden pincushion egg cups. Available in a variety of themes and filled with coordinating wool ball to hold your pins and needles.

COST: \$24⁰⁰

NEW PRODUCTS

FUR POMS



You never know when you might need a small or medium-sized fur ball for a bunny tail, little girl's muff, or even a tree topper (see photo of Patti Mann Tree below).



Available in two sizes, the small mink poms are approximately 1" round and available in 9 colors: white, light grey, hot pink, light pink, maroon, mauve, lavender, hot coral and light coral.

To attach to a canvas, simply sew under the tied knot on the back of each Pom.

The larger rabbit fur poms measure approximately 2.5" round and are available in 4 colors: natural brown, natural grey, black, and white. These fur balls are actually snaps. Separate the snap piece in the back, sew the metal section to your canvas where you want the ball of fur to sit and then snap on the fur!

COST: SMALL POM \$2⁵⁰
SMALL POM \$5⁰⁰

NEW SINGLES CLUB

The Singles Club turns 13! Well, not a teenager, but we now have a Singles Club offered on #13 mesh. The first canvas that caught our eye and got the ball rolling, was "Tree" by Patti Mann. We couldn't resist topping this colorful tree with one of the new Hot Pink Poms. Although the "Tree" will make a great splash as a Christmas Tree ornament, it would also be a GREAT pillow insert to liven up a bedroom for an eye-opening explosion of fun color.

As always these Singles Club kits have been tested to be travel friendly. No laying tool was used in the execution of stitches even when multiple strands were used.

CHRISTMAS CLUB 13

Starting June 2018
(June, July, August)



Tree
Patti Mann
\$108²⁵
Kit includes canvas, guide, & threads



Tree with Swirls
Pippin
\$101⁷⁵
Kit includes canvas, guide, & threads



Santa Suit Ball
Alice Peterson
TBD

NEW PRODUCTS

THREADS FROM RAINBOW GALLERY

COST: GLISTEN \$3⁰⁰
PERSIAN \$1⁷⁵



NEEDLEPOINT SAVING POTS

Do you want to save a little mad money for your needlepoint habit? Use these new fund jars to stowe away your change for that new canvas or some fun new threads you've been dying to add to your stash.

COST: \$45⁰⁰



NEW CANVASES

SOME STRANGER THINGS

If you're like us and have gotten hooked on this show, you'll enjoy stitching while you watch. Rumour is that the next season will begin near the end of this year. Start now and you'll have ornaments to hang on your tree!



COST: \$22⁰⁰-\$40⁰⁰

NEW ON OUR

WEB PAGE

USED BOOKS



While doing some spring cleaning here at the shop, we discovered boxes and shelves of old needlepoint books. From classic books by Elsa Williams to hard to find embroidery books. Want to add some vintage needlework books to your library? Browse through our new page on the website...USED BOOKS.

JUST ADDED

WE JUST ADDED THESE CANVASES TO OUR WEB PAGE



NEW BOOK REVIEW

CHINESE LATTICE BLACKWORK



Clever, Clever, Clever...3 thumbs up from Amy if you use open or light stitching.

I purchase every publication from Finger Step Designs (Susan Jones). I find each and every one of them full of information and great stitch patterns. This packet of Chinese Lattice Blackwork Patterns is no exception. These 13 beautiful fretwork patterns are each diagrammed as a straight image (vertical/horizontal) AND then the same fretwork patterns are diagrammed as a diagonal image. Have you ever wanted to turn a corner with a stitch pattern? Clothing, buildings, book covers and more are design elements that change direction within the same object. The only thing that you need to remember with the different directions of the Chinese Lattice Blackwork Patterns is the diagonal pattern tend to be larger than the straight patterns. In the rule that larger comes forward and smaller recedes, you should select the diagonal pattern for the area that is closest to you and the straight pattern for the area that moves back. In the rule

that straight stitches move forward in appearance while slanted stitches move back in appearance, you should select the straight pattern for the area that is closest to you and the diagonal pattern for the area that moves back. You will have to experiment with the patterns to see which rule to break. My gut tells me that the larger pattern image will move forward more than the straight, so I would choose to experiment with that first.

COST: \$16⁰⁰

TIP!

Start a loose-leaf notebook for all of your Finger Step Design Leaflets. Have them 3-hole drilled at Kinko's or 3-hole punch them at home to add to the notebook along with tabbed dividers to add the title of each leaflet for quick and easy reference.

I am a huge fan of light coverage of the painted canvas allowing the detail and colors of the painting to show through while adding a pattern on top. It is similar to seeing a woman's face through a lace mantilla. Blackwork is the lace mantilla. It is beautiful and delicate. I worked the yoke of Mrs. Claus's coat in 4-Way Variation using only a single strand of silk floss, then couched threads on top of the 4-Way for the dark lines/seams. For those of you who say they don't like Blackwork or don't understand how it works, try 4-Way Continental for your first attempt and see how easy Blackwork really is.

CURRENT HOME STUDY!

ZERO DEGREES NORTH

BY KELLY CLARK



Kit #5

Mrs. Claus

COST: \$225⁷⁵

canvas, guide, & threads

Mrs. Claus stepped out of the house to give her birds a little fresh air and instantly some of her favorite wild animals dropped by for a visit. Mrs. Claus is quite the baker and is well known by her furry and feathered friends to have crumbs and small pieces of home-baked gingerbread, shortbread, banana bread, rosemary bread, cake, cookies and more dusting her clothes and hidden in her pockets. I think that they all would like her just as well if she didn't feed them, but it is a nice treat for sure. Today the Mrs. is particularly resplendent in her new coat with onyx brooch and matching belt buckle. She put fresh bows on her boots and brought a ribbon out to tie a bow on Bunny to make her feel dressed up. Fawn also wanted to dress up, so a lai of greenery with berries was fashioned to encircle her lovely neck. She has already hung a couple of new bird houses to attract some avian visitors and will fill the seed and suet bird feeders before she returns to her kitchens...yes, she has more than one kitchen. Well, why not if you live in a mansion I ask you?

Kit #4

Sack o' Presents

COST: \$136⁵⁰

canvas, guide, & threads



Kit #3

Christmas Tree

COST: \$172⁵⁰

canvas, guide, & threads



Kit #2

Santa's Sleigh

COST: \$176⁵⁰

canvas, guide, & threads



Kit #1

The North Pole

COST: \$216²⁵

canvas, guide, & threads



CURRENT HOME STUDY!

ZERO DEGREES NORTH

BY KELLY CLARK

Little did the Claus family know when they found the house of their dreams at the North Pole it came with a permanent resident feature. At first Santa and the Mrs. were a little uncomfortable with a butler, but quickly they were to discover the multitude of advantages. At first they jokingly referred to the butler as "Jeeves" because they could not quite master the pronunciation of his surname and he always seems to have an encyclopedic grasp on every situation and question. The nickname caught on with the extended family of elves and the butler did not seem to mind, so Jeeves it is to this day. Not only does the house seem to magically run itself under his masterful but subtle management of everything from dusting to food stocking, but when Santa decided to retire, Jeeves saved the day. It was a bleak day in February, Santa still hadn't completely recovered from his December 25th sleigh ride and the elves were clamoring for orders and guidance for the coming year. After great personal struggle, Santa admitted that he just isn't as young as he used to be and he was going to have to move over for a younger recruit. Turmoil is a mild term to apply to what happened next. The elves, reindeer and even the toy shop mechanisms all seemed to go haywire immediately after hearing the news...all except for Jeeves. Two days later Jeeves stepped forward to offer his services to manage the trip scheduling, reindeer maintenance, Naughty & Nice List, supply ordering, toy shop manufacturing lists, sack packing and Big Event mapping. He explained to Santa that his job as butler in the Claus Residence was not sufficiently taxing to fill his working hours and would appreciate the opportunity to feel more useful as long as he was not personally called upon to drive the sleigh. Well, I want to tell you the word spread quickly once Santa realized that Jeeves wasn't kidding and the clanging of jingle bells, tooting horns, and clatter of tiny hooves on the roof were physical evidence of the excitement exhibited by elf and reindeer alike. Santa came up with several low-pitched ho ho hos while agreeing to stay on as sleigh-driving delivery boy and the elves were so happy they presented Jeeves with custom ELF shoes and some tasseled trim for his vest to give him a more festive appearance and make him feel a part of the Christmas Spirit. Most holiday stories and TV specials do not mention Jeeves, but he is happier staying in the background. It is easier to maintain balance on all things if you are not distracted by fame and flattery.



NEW CANVASES FROM MARKET



Canvases are still arriving from orders placed at market. Check website daily to see "What's New"



NEW GUIDES AVAILABLE NOW

BY AMY BUNGER



Round Green Perfume Bottle

by Labors of Love

18m

3.25" x 5.75"

Canvas \$ 57⁵⁰

Stitch Guide \$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit \$ 19⁰⁰

Modern Bathroom

by Lani

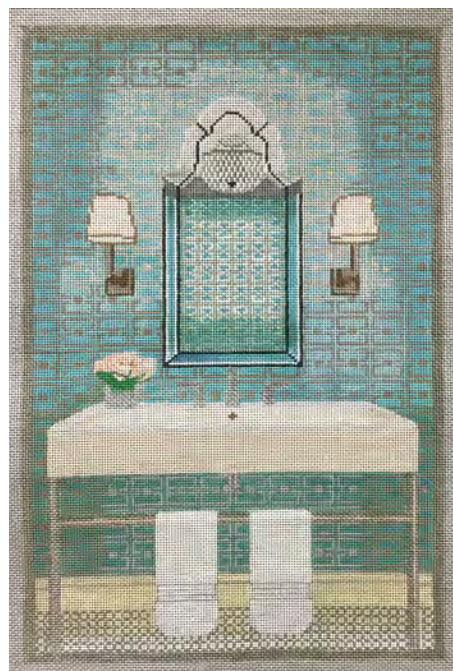
18m

9" x 14"

Canvas \$ 220⁰⁰

Stitch Guide \$ 122⁵⁰

Thread Kit \$ 149²⁵



Tree Series 1

by Maggie

18m

4" x 4"

Canvases \$ 59⁵⁰

Stitch Guide \$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit (2 styles)

Canvas 1991 \$ 39²⁵

Canvas 1993 \$ 45²⁵

Both \$ 54²⁵

Tree Series 2

by Maggie

18m

4" x 4"

Canvases \$ 59⁵⁰

Stitch Guide \$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit (2 styles)

Canvas 1994 \$ 52²⁵

Canvas 1995 \$ 48²⁵

Both \$ 54²⁵



12 STARS OF CHRISTMAS CLUB

Our 12 Stars of Christmas Club continues in April and May with 4 Calling Birds and 5 Golden Rings. Lori has finished stitching all of them too... we couldn't slow her down. Backgrounds are the same on all, but each figure will be fun stitches and different threads.

This 12 month series started in January, but it's never too late to join. You can sign up on the website with a \$100 deposit or call the shop. A new delivery every month is like Christmas morning 12 times a year.

COST: \$ 53⁰⁰ EACH CANVAS AND \$ 20⁰⁰ EACH GUIDE, WITH INDIVIDUAL THREAD KITS LISTED BELOW



\$ 58⁰⁰



\$ 20²⁵



\$ 9⁷⁵



\$ 18⁰⁰



\$ 15²⁵



\$ 18⁷⁵



\$ 14²⁵



\$ 17⁷⁵



\$ 24⁰⁰



\$ 14⁰⁰



\$ 17⁵⁰



\$ 14⁰⁰

NEW STITCH GUIDES

BY LORI CARTER

The Penguin and Presents are now complete. Amy and Lori are working together on these coordinating ornaments for the Zero Degrees North series. Canvases and threads can be purchased separately, but the stitch guide will cover the pair.

Teddy & Teddy Princess

18m

3.75" x 4.75"

Canvas of your choice

\$ 55⁰⁰

Both Canvases

\$110⁰⁰

Stitch Guide

\$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit for both canvases

\$ 76⁰⁰

for Teddy only

\$ 76⁰⁰

for Princess only

\$ 76⁰⁰



Bunch of Presents & Penguin

18m

3.75" x 4.75"

Canvas of your choice

\$ 55⁰⁰

Both Canvases

\$110⁰⁰

Stitch Guide

\$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit for both canvases

\$ 60⁷⁵

for Presents only

\$ 54⁵⁰

for Penguin only

\$ 39⁵⁰



Harlequin & Candle in the Window

18m

4" x 45"

Canvas of your choice

\$ 55⁰⁰

Both Canvases

\$110⁰⁰

Stitch Guide

\$ 35⁰⁰

Thread Kit

TBA

for Harlequin only

TBA

for Candle only

TBA

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

SAFELY FROGGING

Oh, dang it, that's wrong! Those might not be the exact words you would say right before you have to do the "FROG" stitch (rip it), but you get the idea. If a mistake is made in pattern, color, or compensation and you notice it, it is far better to take the time to rip it out rather than live with it FOREVER. I don't know why it is that the enjoyment level of unstitching is far less than the stitching, I mean they both involve the thread passing through the canvas, but it can be discouraging to have to RIPIT if it involves more than just a stitch or two. We thought we might share a few pearls of experienced wisdom on the technique of ripping your stitches out of the canvas.

THERE ARE LOTS OF LITTLE ADVICE TIDBITS LIKE:

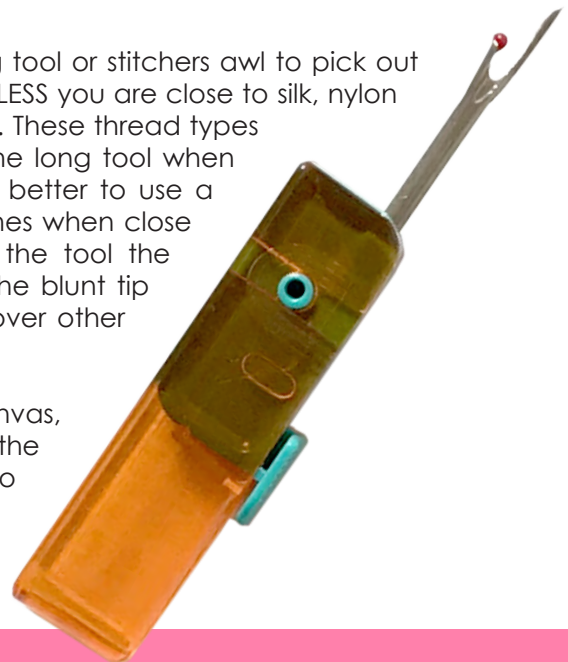


- DON'T reuse the thread if you can help it, as it will have a different sheen. The canvas is very rough and will tear, snap, or at the very least roughen the surface of the threads every time they pass through the canvas. One time is fine, two times through is chancy.
- Safer to pick the stitches out than to cut them out, but a lot slower. Seam rippers and even curved-blade knives can be used, but do so with caution. The blade on a seam ripper or scalpel can easily slice through something you were not intending to cut, like your canvas.
- If you pick threads out, then cut the length of thread off every 3 inches or so, it is faster and easier on your shoulder to pull short threads back through the canvas than it is to pull long ones.

- Use the tip of a stiletto laying tool or stitchers awl to pick out the stitches instead of a needle UNLESS you are close to silk, nylon (Flair) or rayon ribbon (Neon Rays). These thread types are way too easy to snag with the long tool when picking out stitches. It would be better to use a Tapestry Needle to pick out stitches when close to sensitive threads. The shorter the tool the more control you have over it and the blunt tip

of the Tapestry Needle would be more likely to slide over other stitches rather than snag them.

- It is better to pick out stitches from the back of the canvas, especially if you don't know the pathway taken to work the stitches. You can see where the thread "came from" to pick out the next stitch. An added benefit to picking out from the back is that if anything is snagged, it won't show on the surface of the canvas.



STITCH OF THE MONTH

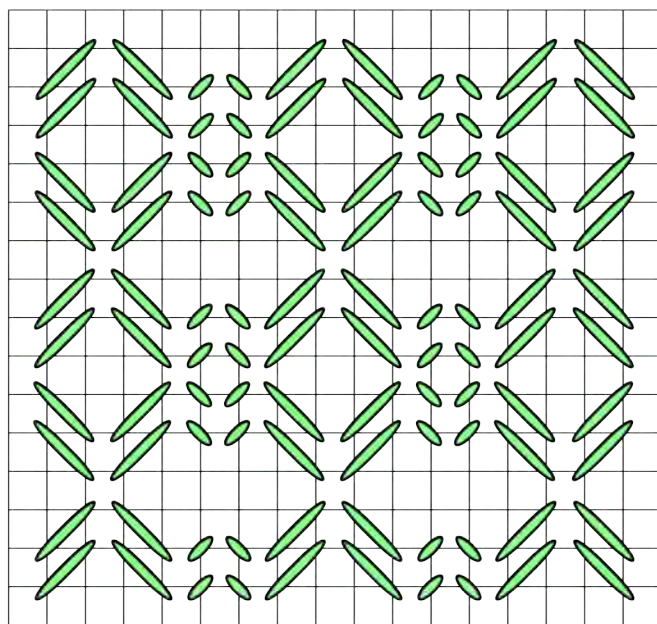
4-WAY VARIATION

WITH AND WITHOUT DARNING

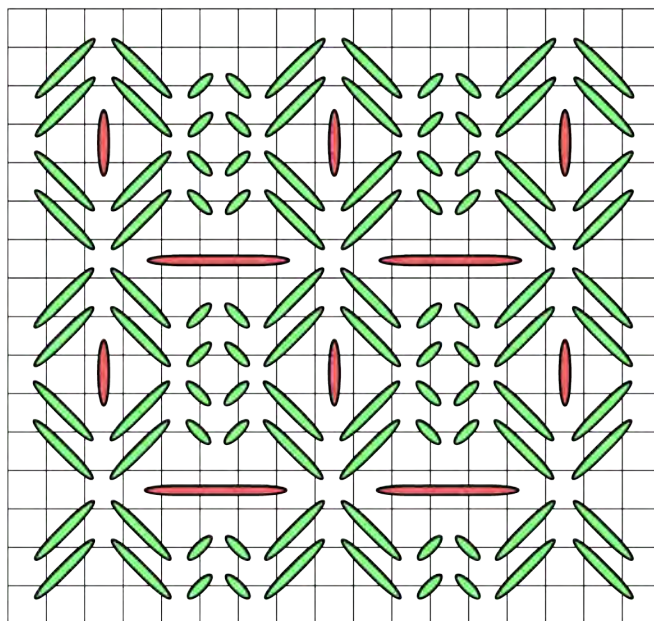


Shadow Work, Lite Stitching, open canvas, exposed canvas are just a few names/terms for stitching that allows the canvas to show through or between the stitches. If you are accustomed to completely covered canvas it can appear to be unfinished to you, but if you stand back a few feet and view the canvas as a whole rather than zeroing in on the stitches you will see some fascinating design combinations. The stitch pattern blends with the pattern of the canvas mesh and, if the canvas is painted, with the color changes and shadows of the painting below the stitches. The book report covers a leaflet of Blackwork Patterns. These can be used on painted canvas needlepoint to create just such an effect as described above. 4-Way Variation (diagrammed in green) is a Blackwork Pattern and can be used with, for a heavier or more solid appearance, or without, for a lighter or more open appearance, the straight Darning Stitches (diagrammed in red). The yoke of Mrs. Claus's coat was stitched using the 4-Way Variation. This allows the varying shades of red and pink to show through the stitches. In this case the straight Darning Stitches were not added, but long stitches were added on top of the 4-Way Variation to develop the seams or ribs of the painted design. The fur, lace collar and brooch were added later.

4-Way Variation without Darning Stitches



4-Way Variation with Darning Stitches



*for more information on the pathway of Blackwork and Darning Patterns refer to The Mysteries of Needlepoint Chapter 2 "Following the Lead"

2018 CLASSES

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the Pick Your Poison classes last year, we are going to offer two Pick Your Poison classes in Spring, 2018. Both the class offered in May and the class offered in June will feature 4 canvases.

Amy will create a custom stitch guide for each of these four canvases and will pull all of the threads, beads, and found objects needed to finish each one. These classes are slightly larger at 12 to 14 students and you must choose at least one of the canvases being offered for the class.

Lunches and beverages will be included each day of this 3-day class.

PICK YOUR POISON CLASS I

May 24th thru 26th, 2018

(Deadline for canvas selection February 1, 2018)

Class Fee: \$450⁰⁰ per person
 \$100⁰⁰ non-refundable deposit due
 at sign up

CANVAS CHOICES:

French Kitchen II - small

by Peter Ashe, 18m, 12" x 15" \$352⁰⁰

Artichokes

by Laura Taylor (LoveYou More), 18m, 16" x 12" \$132⁰⁰

Communion (Lion)

by Tapestry Fair, 18m, 14" x 11" \$253⁰⁰

4 Sunflowers

by Zecca, 18m, 8.5" x 8" \$125⁰⁰

Stitch Guides: TBD

Thread Kits: TBD



2018 CLASSES

PICK YOUR POISON CLASS II

June 28th thru 30th, 2018

(Deadline for canvas selection March 1, 2018)

Class Fee: \$450⁰⁰ per person

\$100⁰⁰ non-refundable deposit due
at sign up

Stitch Guides: TBA



CANVAS CHOICES:

Christmas Owls

by Love You More, 18m, 14" x 11" \$132⁰⁰

Sunflower Field

by Corey Schumann, 18m, 9" x 12" \$220⁰⁰

Witches at the Fence

by Patti Mann, 18m, 18" x 9" \$242⁰⁰

Winter Reflection

by Maggie, 18m, 10.5" x 8.5" \$172⁰⁰



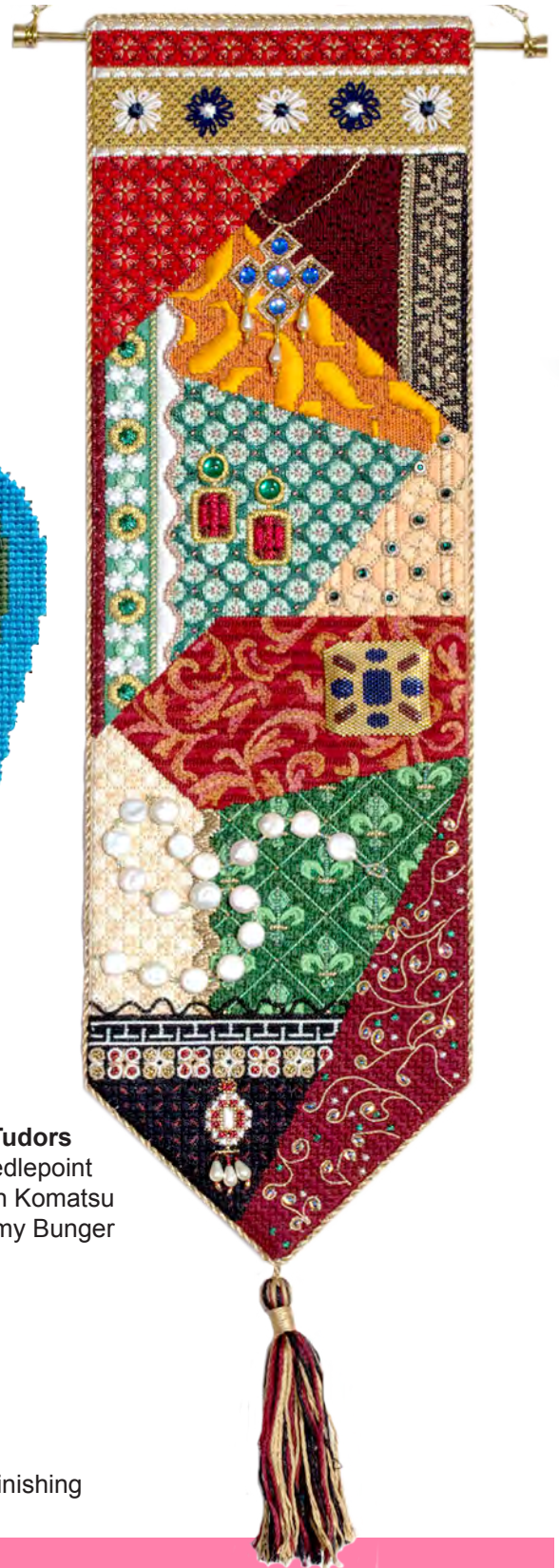
CUSTOMER GALLERY

Zombie Tonic
by Kirk & Bradley
stitched by Mark Craddock
stitch guide by Amy Bunger



3-D A&W Root Beer
by Rogue Designs
stitched by Barb Alden
finished by Cheryl's Needleworks Finishing

Royal Pain in the Tudors
by JP Needlepoint
stitched by Deborah Komatsu
home study by Amy Bunger



CUSTOMER GALLERY



3 Wisemen

by dede Ogden

stitched by LaQuieta O'Dell



Goldfish

by Kate Molineaux (Shorebird Studio)

stitched by Kate Callahan

finishing by Pocker Framing (Greenwich, CT)

2nd Place at Woodlawn Canvaswork/Multi Stitch Category