

Amy's

needlework supplies & classes

APR/MAY 2016

what's inside this month

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

Amy's Birthday Sale May 1st, 2016 thru May 31st, 2016.
Mention this newsletter by phone or E-mail when placing your order*
for 15% off all ANIMAL & FLORAL CANVASES in the store.

NOTE: there are requirements to this sale...you must MENTION
the newsletter and you have to ASK for the extra discount. No
exceptions and no "do-overs" or "I forgot." This sale is strictly for
our newsletter customers. Our newsletters are free and full of
good articles, stitches and information, as well as SPECIALS for our
newsletter readers.

*orders can still be placed on-line for your convenience, just shoot
us an E-mail at the same time about the sale and we will apply your
discount to the order before charging.

NEW PRODUCTS

page 1, 2, 4, & 8

NEW BOOKS

page 6

HOME STUDY

page 5

SINGLES CLUB

page 7

AND MORE!

Amy's Birthday Magnet

Only 8 of these adorable
magnets from Rogue
Designs are available for
purchase!

Please contact us
immediately to be one of
the lucky few to get one.

\$18⁰⁰ EACH



Amy's Golden Strand

3808 Summer Avenue

Memphis, TN 38122

phone: 901.458.6109

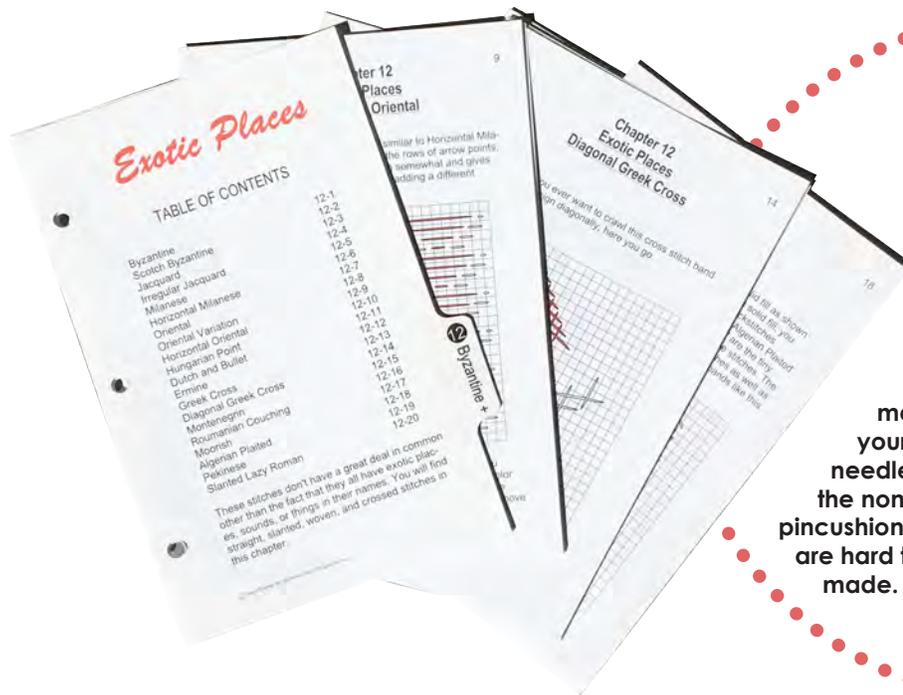
fax: 901.323.4701

AMY'S COOKBOOK IS FOX-Y



Over a year ago I got a call from Mary McGuire, who was planning a year-long project for her guild (Fox Chapter of ANG). The guild decided that "Around the World in Stitches" would be the theme for that year's project series. After a little conversation on the subject, Mary ordered a copy of "Exotic Places" Chapter 12 of Amy's Cookbook for Stitchers and set to work developing a great stitching journey for her group. Every member of the guild got a copy of the chapter at the beginning of the project. Ten stitches from the chapter were chosen to teach to the group. At each meeting the members were given a sheet of information (compiled by volunteer or project chairman) including a brief history of the empire (Byzantine), person (Jacquard) exotic item (Ermine), or country (Algerian) suggested by the title of the stitch. After the history and connection to the stitch were discussed, a lesson on the

stitch was shared. Everyone had choices on stitching: work a sample, just a swatch of the stitch to add to a notebook, or listen while you do your own thing. What a brilliant use of a stitch collection, and I tip my hat to the chapter creativity. It must have been a success because they have ordered Chapter 18 "Play It Again Sam" to work on for the upcoming year.



PINCUSHION MAGNETS



Have you tried our wool pincushion magnets? These wool magnets attach to your canvas using magnets like any other needle minder, but you stick your needles in the non-tarnishing wool just as you would a pincushion. They come in many fun styles, but are hard to get a hold of as each is hand-made. Sold through our sister store: needlelittlemore.com

I am thrilled to think I could be a tiny part of this group's project. I am so impressed with the organization and dedication members exhibit within their stitching groups, whether they are nationally affiliated or just a group of friends who meet regularly to stitch and share. Thank you, Mary, for taking the time to explain and show me the wonderful program you orchestrated with your chapter.



BOOK CLUB

MYSTERIES OF NEEDLEPOINT



The Birds & The Bees

More stitches, suggestions, ideas, techniques about birds and insects. Those flying critters are EVERYWHERE in the needlepoint world. Even if you have an aversion to avian creatures, you might use some of these feather ideas on an angel's wing. Scream at the sight of spiders, baffled by bees, wary of worms, or love ladybugs? You will find some great methods for stitching them in these pages. We can't wait for you to see this next Chapter, but must apologize for the tardy release.

As with all "best laid plans," these chapters have taken on a life of their own; becoming more involved and in-depth than we had ever envisioned. We gather from your positive feedback, that you are pleased with the result and hope that you will continue to be patient with our slower-than-projected delivery of Chapter 6.

Once the chapters moved from the more concrete subjects of type, pathway, color and depth techniques into the more interpretive subject of developing a stitch plan for design areas, the information was hard to contain and control. Chapter 6, covering birds and insects, was planned to be included in Chapter 5, but I ran on and on about fish and reptiles and ran out of room. Now we find that what was planned for Chapter 6 needs to be rolled to ANOTHER Chapter. We will be offering Chapter 7 on mammals at a later date this year, but will offer an "opt out" option. You MUST CONTACT US TO OPT OUT OF CHAPTER 7. We will be including an "opt out" reminder in the mailing of Chapter 6 to remind you to call and "opt out" of future chapters if you wish. If we DO NOT hear from you, we will assume you wish to continue and will automatically send you the additional chapter.

CASEBOOK

MYSTERIES OF NEEDLEPOINT SERIES

SEVEN INSTALLMENTS

\$30⁰⁰ EACH

Needlepoint is an art that requires a hands-on approach, using the accompanying workbook allows stitchers to demonstrate mastery of the competencies of the topics covered in the first four chapters of the Mysteries series. The subsequent chapters (5 and on) progress into more of a stitch reference by subject, and have become more difficult to develop test questions for; therefore Casebook chapters are not available for subsequent chapters.

Chapters 1-4 are available in either a printed format (\$20) or PDF download (\$15). An answer key for each chapter is emailed separately.
www.needlelittlemore.com



HAVE YOU TRIED?

CHERYL & ANNIE'S EMBELLISHMENTS BRADS

They have a big variety of brads that just attach to your canvas easily to enhance a small area with loads of different designs; black-rimmed glasses, witch's hats, autumn leaves, gumdrops, Christmas lights, seahorse, fish, tiny assorted shells, and much MORE.



These are the perfect little attachments that are fast and easy to use for a variety of canvas designs. On the back of each brad you will find thin metal tines that push easily through the holes of the canvas and then bend back to hold the brad flat to the canvas right where you want it.

COST: \$1⁵⁰ EACH

The little seahorse is perfect to use for the tiny seahorse on the little girl's hat in "This is the Life" (see pg. 8). The design is too small to stitch it with any detail, so the brad was the perfect solution.



CURRENT HOME STUDY

PUMPKIN PARADE BY MELISSA SHIRLEY



What a fun journey I have had with Melissa Shirley's little witches in the Pumpkin Parade Home Study. In the last two months we have sent out Kit #6 working the witch in the pumpkin shell cart. Her hubcaps are spikes like the chariot in the movie Ben Hur (she is a fan of Charlton Heston) and the reins to her black cat steed are a real chain. Just look at that lovely mass of deep red curls, she was so much fun to work.

Kit #7 is being shipped now and includes all the threads, beads and Wirelace to complete the Green Coat Witch and her basket of pumpkins. This little gal was not thrilled about her position in the parade, caught between the two hair-color divas. She donned her best coat but was crestfallen when she got an eyeful of what the others wore to the event. Like any self-respecting, resourceful witch, she grabbed two pumpkins to enhance her chest area, whipped a silvery spider web off the fence and wrapped it around her hat for embellishment, and misted her hair to bring out little natural waves. Voila, all that was needed to further spark her appearance was a jaunty yellow flower on her hatband!!!

I am off to start contemplating the cat pull toy and last witch in the line-up of Pumpkin Parade.

Pumpkin Parade, like all of our Home Study projects, will not retire unless we can no longer get the canvases from the designer. If you would like to work the Pumpkin Parade Home Study, give us a call to schedule a start date.

SINGLES CLUB

What is a Singles Club?

These Clubs are not meeting places for dating, but they are a way of connecting with a needlepoint companion.

The first half of this year has been filled with air travel, car travel, hospital visits, doctor offices and just plain ole sittin' and waitin'. All of these moments of spare time are perfect for a SINGLES CLUB PROJECT.

All of the Singles Club Projects are small, come with a fun (sometimes slightly challenging) stitch guide, and threads. All Singles Club Projects can be worked WITHOUT a laying tool, so they are air-travel friendly. Some of the stitches and techniques are easier to work using a frame stand of some sort (like the Baby Z Base K's Creations Stand), but most can easily be worked while holding the stretcher bars in your hand (YES, I recommend using stretcher bars).

Singles Clubs are sold in themed sets of three, shipped every other month. If you sign up for more than one Singles Club, please let us know if the mailing schedule needs to be adjusted.

SPRING CLUB A

Starting March 2016
(March, May, July)



Spring Cottage
Rebecca Wood
\$44⁵⁰ canvas only



Striped Bird House
Melissa Shirley
\$61⁵⁰ canvas only



Backyard Bunny
Rogue Needlepoint
\$37⁰⁰ canvas only

CHRISTMAS CLUB A

Starting April 2016
(April, June, August)



Christmas Package
NeedleDeeva
\$55⁰⁰ canvas only



Candle Bell
Raymond Crawford
\$46⁵⁰ canvas only



Mistletoe Santa
Maggie Co.
\$53⁰⁰ canvas only

HALLOWEEN CLUB A

Starting May 2016
(May, July, September)



Lime Halloween Croc
Kathy Schenkel
\$31⁰⁰ canvas only



Mummy Dearest
Dreamhouse Ventures
\$59⁰⁰ canvas only



Halloween Pumpkin
Burnett & Bradley
\$50⁵⁰ canvas only

JULY 4TH CLUB A

Starting June 2016
(June, August, October)



July Pants
Ewe & Eye



Independence Cake
DC Designs



Flag Flip-Flops
Nenah Stone

NEW GUIDES

BY AMY BUNGER



Happy 4th or Stars & Stripes

by & More
18m
14" x 5"

Canvas \$77⁰⁰
Stitch guide \$25⁰⁰
Thread Kit \$37⁵⁰



Stars & Stripes

by & More
18m

17" X 5"

Canvas \$121⁰⁰
Stitch guide \$ 25⁰⁰
Thread Kit \$ 40²⁵



This is the Life

by Mary Engebret
distributed by Painted Pony

18m
6" X 7"

Canvas \$102⁵⁰
Stitch guide \$ 25⁰⁰
Thread Kit \$ 83⁶⁰

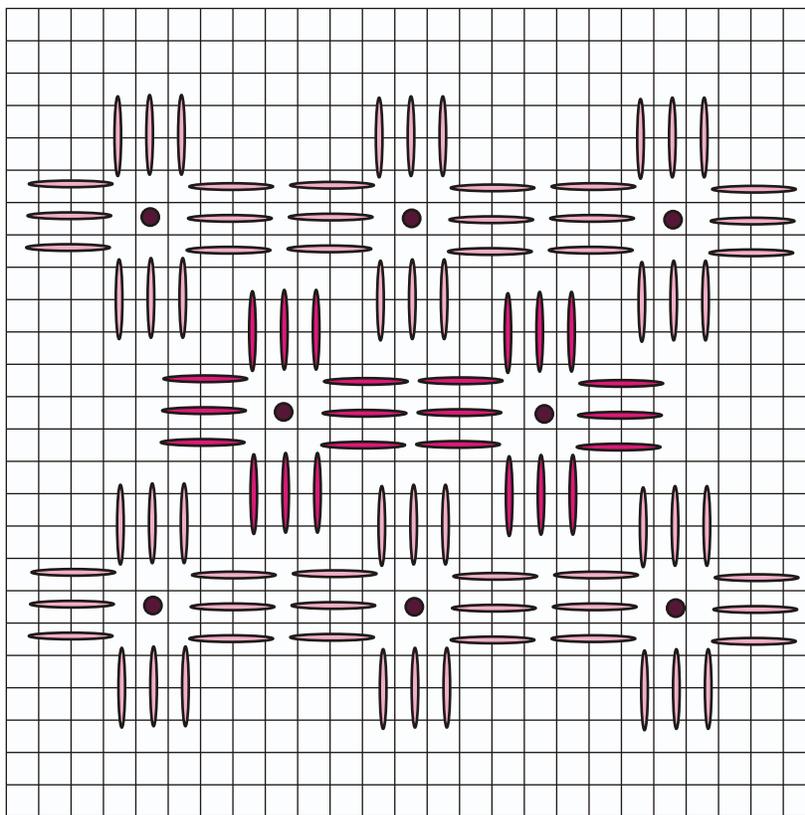
STITCH OF THE MONTH

FLOWER STITCH

This is a fun stitch with a few thread suggestions from "Flower Market" Celebrity Chef Chapter 3 in Amy's Cookbook for Stitchers. This chapter is filled with wonderful stitches and advice from Brenda Hart, one of many talented teacher/stitch guide writers who have contributed their talents in the pages of The Celebrity Chef Chapters. All of the chapters in Amy's Cookbook for Stitchers are loaded with great stitches to use on your needlepoint projects.

There are 24 chapters written by Amy Bunger and 6 Chapters written by other teachers: Tony Minieri, Jay Paterson, Brenda Hart, dede Ogden, T3 (Anne Caswell, Suzanne Howren, & Beth Robertson), and Deborah Wilson. Each chapter sells for \$12.00 (there will be a price increase in June) and the binders cost \$10.00 each (available in 3 colors at this time).

FAUX DAISIES



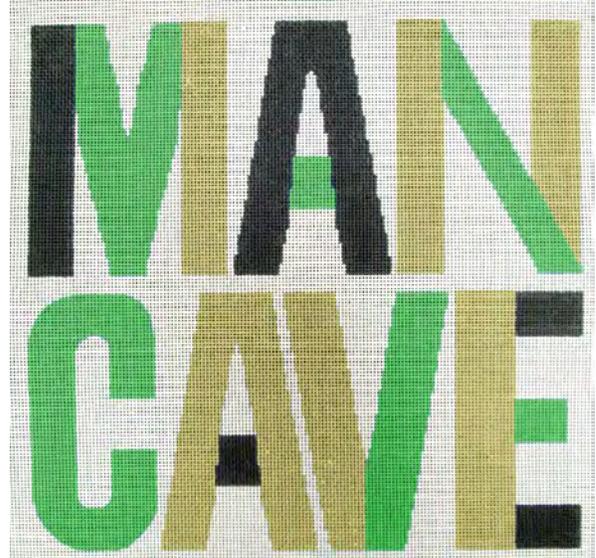
HELPFUL TIPS FROM BRENDA HART

For a smaller looking background stitch, the flower pattern shown above would be a good choice. Thread Suggestion: On 18 mesh, 3 strands of Subtlety or size 12 pearl cotton work well. On 14 mesh, 2 or 3 strands of Grandeur, Elegance, or size 8 pearl cotton work very well.

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?



original canvas from Unique NZ



CHANGING COLORS

There are times when the painted canvas you love just does NOT come in the colors you want. Sometimes you can just change the color of the thread with no changes to the painted canvas. To successfully cover one painted color with a different color of thread, you must select a thread that offers full coverage for the canvas mesh on which you are working. You also must select a thread color (hue) in the same intensity (light to dark) as the paint color you are covering. In a perfect world you would always want to cover a medium blue with a medium green (both medium intensity and both cool colors), but in real life you are going to want to cover blue with orange, black with yellow, or white with bronze!

WITH THREADS

If you stitch medium green over medium blue, you probably would not even notice a speck of blue showing between the green stitches because the colors are similar and the colors blend well. If, however you stitch a warm color (orange) over a cool color (blue), light thread over dark paint, or dark thread over light paint, you must change the painting BEFORE you stitch the canvas.

BY PAINTING

There are various options to fix the base color on a canvas before you start stitching and each option has a strength and a weakness. If you were going to change the blue to orange and did not want to run the chance of blue flecks of paint color showing between your stitches, you could paint the canvas using acrylic paint. Painting with orange acrylic paint



HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

over blue painted canvas, will most likely give you brown or a brownish orange. Unless you paint with acrylic full strength with no thinning agent (very hard to do without completely clogging the holes of the canvas), the paint is translucent, letting some of the blue show through, which mixes with the orange color, making brown. The best way to thin acrylic paint is to use a thinning agent (usually alcohol based rather than water based) sold in hobby and art stores. This agent allows the paint to keep a more opaque look. If you are stitching orange thread over a brown or brownish orange color paint, the color will hardly be noticeable as any flecks showing through would blend much like the green over blue.



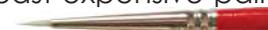
If you want to work an open stitch over the area, which calls for a close match in paint color to thread color, you may need to paint the area with a mixture of appropriate color acrylic paint with acrylic gesso. Gesso is an opaque medium which dries flexible and commonly used as a base coat on artist canvas before applying paint. Gesso is available in white, black and

ecru or cream colors, but you can mix it with acrylic paint to get the color you want. Take into consideration the color of the Gesso will change the color of the acrylic pigment. Cream might be the best color to mix with orange, but it will still lighten the intensity of the color.



Gesso covers the best, acrylic paint covers pretty well but both are thick and there is the clean-up to be considered. Colors are limitless on these, but you need to know a little about mixing paints, or go through a great deal of trial and error.

If you paint the canvas I recommend purchasing the least expensive paint



brushes possible because the canvas destroys them. If you use a Round Bristle Size 000, you will be able to paint vertically and horizontally covering the individual canvas threads without clogging the holes of the canvas for small detail areas. If you are filling in larger areas use a Bright Bristle Brush no more than a 1/4" wide. A Bright Brush has a flat end with short bristles opposed to a Flat Brush which has longer bristles. The Bright will bend less so you are painting with the tips of the bristles hopefully depositing paint on the canvas threads and not in canvas holes. Acrylic Gesso and Acrylic Paint are both a soap and water clean up if cleaned immediately. I have also used rubbing alcohol to get a smear of acrylic paint off of a canvas with great success. I am told that vodka works too, but I have never tried it (on a canvas). Once these acrylic paints are dry they are very hard to get out. If you get paint clogged in the holes of the canvas here are a couple tips. If the paint is still wet, you can blow on the area with a strong puff of breath keeping a rag behind the canvas to

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

prevent splattering paint on something else. If the paint is dry, you can poke out the holes of the canvas using a tapestry needle the same size you would use to stitch that mesh canvas.

If you wish to stitch a pale color of thread over a very dark color of paint, you might consider painting over the original dark color with a light color of Acrylic Gesso before stitching. If you wish to stitch a dark color thread over a light color paint, your best choice might be to use a permanent WATERPROOF marker, like Identi-pen by Sakura or Faber Castell Pens. These markers are fast and easy to use, especially if you have a large area to change, like a background area. Markers do not deposit a thick covering to the canvas or clog the holes of the canvas, like acrylic paint and gesso can if used too heavily. These markers are very translucent and can be layered to make other colors. If you color the area with a yellow marker and then apply a red marker, you will get orange. The pens can also be used to cover an existing color of paint to change the color. A yellow marker can be used over blue paint to make green.



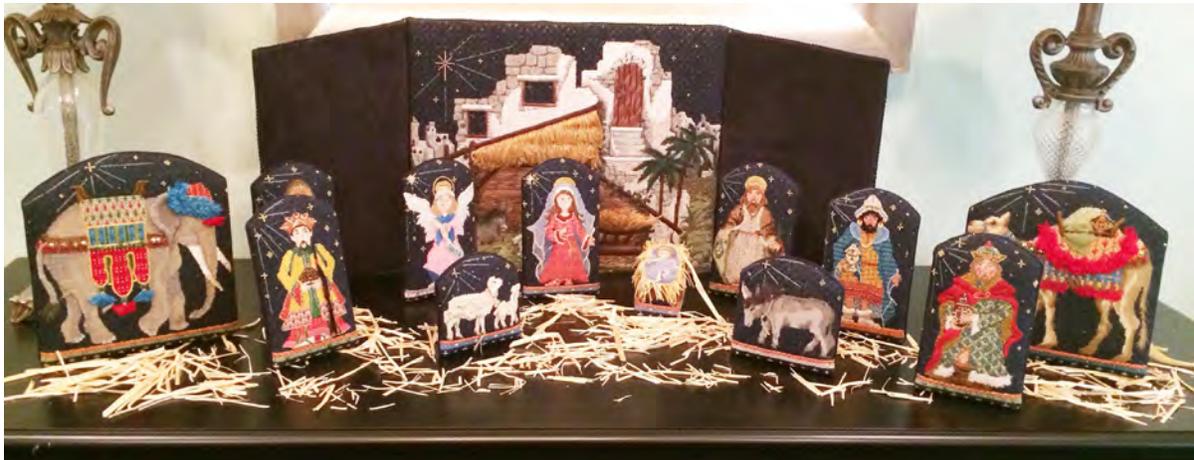
CUSTOMER GALLERY



Bird Cage Box
by DJ Designs
stitched by Karen Jetton



Bird Picture Frame
by Alice Peterson
stitched by Karen Jetton
with help from Robin King

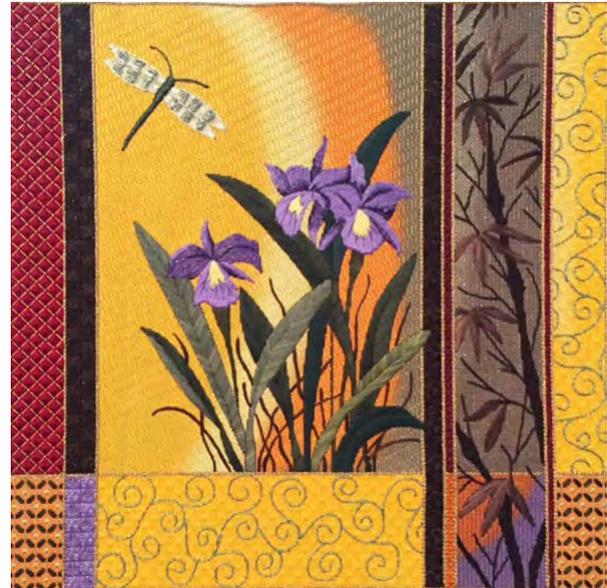


Nativity Characters & Creche
by Kelly Clark
belongs to Minta Lynch
stitched by Judy Ellis
stitch guides from Amy Bunger Home Study

CUSTOMER GALLERY



Pain in the Tudors & Oh Henry!
 by JP Needlepoint Designs
 stitched by Mary Plummer
 stitch guides from Amy Bunger Home Study



Orchids
 by JP Needlepoint Designs
 stitched by Kathy Kulesza
 stitch guidance on Rent Amy Day



Custom Scottie Canvas
 by JP Sligh of Labors of Love
 stitched by Cindy McKown
 stitch guide by Cindy McKown

Four Goddesses
 by Maggie Co.
 stitched by Kathy Brewer
 stitch guide by Amy Bunger
 with a few changes to hair by Kathy



CUSTOMER GALLERY



Bull Sit
designed by Annie Lane
stitched by Cindy McKown
stitch guide by Cindy McKown



Mr. Bunny & Mrs. Bunny
designed by Frank Bielik
distributed by Maggie Co.
stitched by Patricia Wakefield
stitch guide by Tony Minieri
class taught at In Stitches, Atlanta, GA.



4th of July March
designed by Liz Goodrich-Dillon
distributed by Susan Roberts
stitched by Patricia Wakefield
stitch guides by Connie Camp and Amy Bunger



Garden Party
designed by Vickie Sawyer
distributed by Melissa Shirley
stitched by Sandy Williams
stitch guide by Amy Bunger

CUSTOMER GALLERY



Flying Witch
from Melissa Shirley
stitched by Polly Vaughan
stitch guide by Amy Bunger



Walking the Water's Edge
by Diane Herrmann
stitched by Suzanne Allen
class ghosted through ANG San Diego Chapter



Political Animals
by CanvasWorks
stitched by Courtenay Butler
stitch guidance given on Rent Amy Day