

A Stitch in Time - Stumpwork and Embroidery.



This week, have fun creating a mixed media scene inspired by the Holburne's enchanting embroidery collection!
FIND different textures and materials in and around your home to make a beautiful, tactile creation...If mixed media isn't your thing you can draw or paint your scene too!

Experiment, it's SEW much fun!



Harder than it seems!

In the 17th century, most women, no matter how rich or poor, were expected to be competent at needlework. However, only a privileged few were able to afford the time and materials to make decorative embroidered pictures.

The **Holburne Museum** has a wonderful collection of embroideries. Most were made by young, highly skilled amateur needlewomen from wealthy households and were designed to show off their talent. Some may also be the work of professional embroiderers, who were usually men.



A Story in Stitch

Many of these embroideries incorporate raised embroidery which is called **stumpwork**.

Stumpwork uses different materials and embroidery techniques to tell a story in stitch using three dimensional elements. These charming designs often include flowers, animals, birds and insects.

The Restoration of Charles II

English raised embroidery worked on a white satin ground, embroidered in silk with linen lace, metal threads, pearl beads and mica, about 1665

Our activity this week has been inspired by this example of stumpwork, showing the figures of the young Charles II and his companion William Carliss hiding in the Boscobel Oak following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

The leaves on the central oak tree have a wonderful texture and 3D quality, they almost look real. Imagine how long this panel would take to make!

Stitch **techniques** include silkwork, goldwork, flat and raised stitching, beadwork, padding and needle lace.



Come and see the embroideries in the Museum when it re-opens !





Flora and Fauna

Look at the stumpwork panel above.

How many animals and insects can you spot?

How many different plants and flowers are there?



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in
Time

Please share an image of what you've made We love to see your creations!

Email an image to e.blythe@holburne.org

We'll feature a selection on Instagram.
Follow [changing_lives_through_art](https://www.instagram.com/changing_lives_through_art)





*and sew
it begins*

You will need:

- ◇ Textured materials from the house/ outdoors. **Use anything you can stick down!**
- Envelopes, wrappers, kitchen roll, leaves, orange nets dried petals, old buttons, string etc...**
- ◇ Card/ fabric or paper to use as a background. Cereal boxes work well!
- ◇ Glue, pen or pencil
- ◇ Scissors

ACTIVITY

Create a 'raised image' inspired by the Museum's stumpwork.

Decide what kind of scene you would like to create. We have chosen to focus on the oak tree and flowers.

If you prefer to paint or draw a scene inspired by the embroidery that's ok too!

Gather all your materials and find a space to work.



Start with the background. Choose paper, card or fabric. To create an aged effect, paint your material with tea or coffee.



Start layering your scene. Create texture by tearing and ripping edges of the paper or fabric.



You can use kitchen roll or paper to make flowers and leaves. These can also be stained with the tea/coffee.



If you have any sewing related objects you can add these (or stitch if you wish!). We've added buttons, torn ribbon, string and threads. To create the 'look' of stitching, use a pen or pencil to draw stitched lines.



Once you're happy with the placement of your materials/objects, you can glue them down.



We told you...it's SEW FUN!