

Slow Stitch Vignettes

#523

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Storytelling is an art form, but it does not always need to be told in words. Spend a day slow stitching your own stories into precious vignettes. We will play with layering, fraying and stitching a story together with found objects and repurposed textiles. Don't have a story to tell? No problem, we may take a walk outside for inspiration!

We will discuss the power of composition, along with introducing you to mixed media techniques to pair with the simple collages for your vignettes. Then, to connect your story, Pati will take you to her happy place and introduce you to improvisation slow stitching for the perfect ending to your story.

Supply List

The vignettes shown were made with linen upholstery samples from a sample book found at a reuse center. These are wonderful to work with, but not necessary. You can just as easily pull from your stash with directions below. You might also want to check with local artists' reuse centers or do a search on Etsy for fabric samples or upholstery sample books. There are a lot of options there. I will also bring some samples with me to share, along with bits and baubles to experiment with for finishing touches.

1. Backgrounds and Layers:

We will be working in layers, so think small, but bring a variety of choices. The sample vignettes are approximately 3" x 5". You are welcome to choose a size you are comfortable working with.

- Small pieces of linen, wool, woven or nubby fabrics, velvets and velveteens - basically anything with texture, and if it frays or tears, all the better!
- Think outside the box if you like - canvas, upholstery, mesh, or tulle. Heavy upholstery fabric can work, but make sure you can stitch through it by hand to tack the other layers on.
- Choose colors and patterns that help to tell the story you choose. If it is a nature walk, choose natural colors. If it is a day by the sea, choose colors that reflect the ocean.

2. Foregrounds and Small Elements:

This is an opportunity to personalize your vignettes. Just remember - a little bit goes a long way. These small treasures will be creatively attached to your layered vignettes. I used elements that reflected my nature walks and experiences. There are lichen covered twigs, preserved oak leaves, leftover block printed canvas and even a tiny little "quiltlet" block I received in the mail at the end of one walk.

- Small bits of silk, wool, cork, leftover printed/painted fabric scraps, and even small "pieced" bits.
- Vintage lace, ribbon, tiny buttons, bead or tassels.
- Natural elements will also work well, such as twigs, leaves, pebbles and shells.

3. Threads and Tools

- One neutral thread for tacking down layers, and a small variety of threads to add for contrast and embellishment. These could be embroidery thread, metallic thread, wool thread or even a thin twine. My go-to's:

Wonderfil, DMC or Valdani Perle Cotton, Wonderfil Spaghetti Thread

Superior Sew Sassy

- Needles - any needle will work, as long as you can get your thread through it. My go-to's: Bohn Self-Threading Needles
- Clover Gold Eye Embroidery Needles Tulip Large Eye Sashiko Needles.
- Small, sharp sewing scissors, white fabric glue or glue stick (any brand)
- Sketchbook, journal or pad of paper and pencil for rough sketching layout ideas.

I will bring preserved leaves to share along with other interesting elements and unusual threads. I suggest you take time to gather your own supplies, so that the vignettes are a personal statement of you and your explorations.

Preserved Leaves:

If you would like to preserve a few leaves ahead of time, I would suggest soaking them in 1 part glycerin and 2 parts water for 5-6 days. See instructions here:

<https://www.instructables.com/Preserve-Leaves-With-Glycerin/>

