

December 16

Made a list of what I already know and what I want to learn.

Already know:

- Running stitch
- Backstitch

Want to learn:

- Satin stitch
- French knot
- Lazy daisy
- Chain stitch
- Blanket stitch
- Cross stitch

- Using the hoop
- Choosing colours
- Design pattern
- Best fabric

January 24

First meeting with my mentor.

Meeting notes:

- Embroidery thread comes in 6 strands, most of the time you split it into 2 or 3 (3 is nicer and bolder)
- Use 100% cotton fabric, not as porous
- Use special pen erasable with water (can also use washable fineliners, pencil crayon)

- To prepare fabric, handwash in warm water to prevent shrinking and iron flat
- Start embroidering at top corner
- Begin with straight stitches and then practice curves
- Try to make the spacing consistent, precise, neat

Finished January 29

Learned running stitch, back stitch, split stitch, stem stitch, cross stitch, satin stitch, blanket stitch, woven spider wheel, feather stitch, herringbone stitch, lazy daisy, and French knot.

Realized importance of marking out lines and stitches beforehand.



February 10

Second meeting with my mentor.

Meeting Notes:

- Learned how to use needle threader
- Don't have to use three strands - adding more material could result in a richer, more vibrant colour and a fuller texture while using fewer strands could be beneficial for fine details or adding additional colour onto a finished piece

- Can use two differently coloured threads
- Can draw freehand then use imagination to fill in different parts with different stitches

Finished February 11

Followed flower video tutorials sent by my mentor.

Really interested to see how stitches are used in a project. For example, French knots were used to mimic flower buds in one design, a running stitch was used for the stem of another, and a blanket stitch illustrated the rim of a bell-shaped flower in a third design.

Learned a new stitch involving casting thread onto the needle in a manner reminiscent of casting on for knitting.

Experimented with using different colours and amounts of embroidery floss.



Finished February 21

Followed more flower tutorials sent by my mentor.

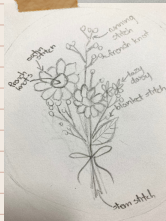
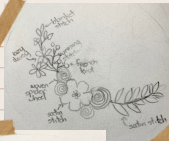
Learned how to modify the stitches I know to better suit the pattern. For flower petals, I used the blanket stitch but curved the top stitches to make them fit the shape of the flower. I also used individual lazy daisy stitches for leaves, french knots for large circular flowers and ferns, and skipped

every third weave of the woven spider wheel to create a poppy-like flower.

Incorporated beads in one of the flowers.

Worked on some potential designs for my own pattern.

Beginning to work on animal patterns.



February 25

Meeting with my mentor.

Meeting notes:

- Practice writing the word before embroidering it
- Don't be afraid to use smaller stitches during curves to make for a smoother transition
- Always embroider in the same direction
- Can embroider in cursive or block letters

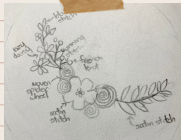
- Discussed a mother's day gift design I would like to make ("you are my sunshine" embroidered on a canvas bag with sunflowers and other foliage)
- Can either embroider directly on bag, or onto cotton fabric that can be sewn onto the bag

Finished March 9

Followed first embroidery project with the design I created myself.

Mainly used the backstitch, blanket stitch, lazy daisy, woven spider wheel, and French knots.

Next time, want to focus on maintaining a cohesive colour scheme, exploring more stitches, and creating an aesthetic composition.



Finished March 17

Practiced lettering with a simple back stitch.

Used green with a strand of gold embroidery floss for detail.

Next time, want to focus on balancing the letters better.

Practiced butterfly designs my mentor sent me.

Overall, these two practice pieces were a little bit rushed, so I am not completely happy with them.



Finished March 31

Finished second embroidery project with the design I created myself.

Took inspiration from a cockatoo pattern my mentor sent me, but changed the design and added a tree stump, flowers, and vines.

Experimented with creating a new type of flower that is more three-dimensional, inspired by some of the ones I practiced.



Focused on contrasting textures - gave the feathers more of a long, flowy texture with the lazy daisy stitch, the log an organic, vertical texture with the stem stitch, the vines a looser texture to break away from the solid trunk, and even tried to imitate the natural veins of the leaves.

Worked to create a cohesive colour scheme featuring warm yet earthy and muted tones.

Finished May 9

Finished third major project, bringing the embroidery gift for my mom to life.

Took into consideration my mentor's recommendations.

Used the biggest embroidery hoop, which I had never done before.

Improved at embroidering words.

Incorporated previously learned stitches, and was starting to define a personal style.



Finished May 25

Finished last major project, which will be a thank you gift to my mentor.

Really wanted to showcase my gratitude to my mentor for being so supportive of me and generous of her time and effort.

Learned how to embroider hair for the first time.

Learned a new weaving stitch, as well as the rosette chain stitch.

Developed a much more cohesive colour scheme.

Used lazy daisy stitches in a new way to suggest lacy frills.

Final project is on next page!



Thank you so much for
looking through my in-depth
progress journal!

Thanks again to my mentor,
Michelle, and my teacher-
facilitator Ms. Mulder for all
the support!

I'm so thankful to be able to
share my journey with you,
and hope you enjoy the
rest of the night!