

# Stitch Camp Tools & materials



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## Stitch Camp syllabus

### Day One: Mark making

Gwen will encourage you to get playful with paint. Make marks on cloth and learn how mistakes and imperfections can become the key to uncovering your creative uniqueness.

#### Day Two: Deconstruct & reconstruct

You'll discover that making art can be free and spontaneous. Gwen encourages you to look afresh at your cloth by deconstructing it, before piecing and patching selected pieces back together in a completely new design.

### Day Three: Stitch Experiments

You'll lean into the power of simple hand stitch and discover how to blur the boundaries of your patched work. Your embroidery stitches will help to connect and unify the painted marks and shapes, creating visual links across the patched pieces of fabric.

#### Day Four: Layering your marks

You'll discover how to build a personal level of detail and depth. Connect your painted and stitched marks further, by exploring appliqué and layering.

#### Day Five: What next?

You'll discover some exciting ways to display what you've made. And you'll find out how to generate ideas for further experiments using the processes and creative strategies you've learned.



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## Possible outcomes

You may be inspired by an artwork you see here, or you may choose to work towards a completely different end result. There is no prescribed end product. Stitch Camp is your chance to experiment, so try to keep an open mind and let the process guide you day by day. What you make will be unique and personal to you.



Stitch Camp artwork by Elaine Hook



Stitch Camp artwork by Rebecca Goldthorpe



Stitch Camp artwork by Chin Beley



Stitch Camp artwork by Suzy Lee

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Stitch Camp artwork by Tammy Kendall



Stitch Camp artwork by Robynne Pirkle



Stitch Camp artwork by Carole Norman



Stitch Camp artwork by Liz Smith

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Stitch Camp artwork by Lena Nordstrom



Stitch Camp artwork by Laura Allen



Stitch Camp artwork by Karen Turckes

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### Tools & materials

## Before you begin

Choose three main colours to work with: one light, one dark and one mid-toned. Gwen uses cream, black and red.

## What you'll need

#### Fabric

- o Two pieces of natural fabric, such as cotton or linen, in your **light colour**. Gwen uses pieces measuring around  $20 \text{cm} \times 30 \text{cm} (8\frac{1}{2}^{\prime\prime} \times 12^{\prime\prime})$ .
- o Fabric scraps and offcuts in your dark and mid tone colours, for appliqué.
- o An optional backing fabric in one of your chosen colours (if you wish to back the artwork). The size of this will depend on the size of the work you create.
- o Look for fabric at home or in a local charity shop, such as old sheets or pillow cases, recycled clothing, or calico (muslin). If you use new fabric, you'll need to wash it before use.

#### Paint

- o Use paints to match your dark and mid-tone colours.
- o You'll also need a small amount of paint in your light colour.
- o Dilute these with water to a pouring consistency, a little thicker than liquid ink.
- Use water-based acrylic paints, children's play paints, or fabric paints nothing fancy is required.

### • Threads in the three colours you've chosen

You can use threads in different weights and shades. Stranded embroidery cottons are useful, as you can vary thread thickness.

### A variety of marking tools

Look for items like kebab sticks, cocktail sticks, matchsticks, plastic tubes, lids, twigs, or an old plastic store card cut lengthwise into two flexible strips.

#### • Water, to dilute the paints



### Tools & materials

- Some small containers for your diluted paints
- A shallow plastic tray for your marking and painting tools
- Protective gloves (optional)
- Two or three paint brushes in different sizes
- Newspaper, waste paper or a plastic sheet, to protect your work surface
- Ordinary sewing needles with a fairly large eye and a sharp point
- Pins
- Scissors
- Masking tape

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