



**National Academy of Needlearts**

**Assembly for Embroiderers  
And  
*The Exemplary***

**March 14-18, 2025**

**Somerset Inn, Troy, MI**

**Class Offerings and Teacher Biographies**

***Registration Opens October 1, 2024***

This document is available online at [www.needleart.org/Assembly](http://www.needleart.org/Assembly).

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## Everyone Is Welcome

Assembly for Embroiderers is an annual event that brings together needle arts enthusiasts and is open to anyone interested in the art of the threaded needle, regardless of skill level or experience.

If you are a beginning stitcher, attending Assembly can be an excellent way to learn new techniques from experienced instructors and gain inspiration for your work.

For more experienced stitchers, Assembly is an opportunity to connect with others who enjoy the needlearts, to explore new techniques, and to pursue professional training as a teacher or judge.

In addition to classes, Assembly features an exhibition – *The Exemplary* – that showcases the work of talented embroiderers and designers. Assembly also features lectures and social events, making it an excellent opportunity to make new friends.

Whether you are looking to learn new skills, gain inspiration for your work, or simply connect with others who share your passion, the NAN Assembly is a must-attend event for all who enjoy this timeless art form. Anyone who is interested in embroidery and needle arts, from beginners to experienced professionals, can benefit from attending Assembly.



## NAN Membership

Members are entitled to all publications from the Academy. There are two categories of membership:

- **General Membership—\$40.00:** For those who wish to pay annual dues.
- **Life Member—\$575.00:** For those who wish to make a one-time payment of dues.

If you wish to pay your membership dues separately from Assembly registration fees, please send check or money order (payable to NAN), VISA, or MasterCard (with expiration date) to:

**Dawn Donnelly, Membership Chair**  
52806 Stag Ridge Drive  
Macomb, MI 48042  
[membership@needleart.org](mailto:membership@needleart.org)

## 4-Day Class: Saturday, March 15 through Tuesday, March 18

### 401: Ginkgo with Plum Vase – Wendy Moore

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate/Advanced

**Kit Cost:** \$170

**Ground:** 12" x 16" Soft Mocha Congress Cloth

**Design Size:** 7" x 11"

Ginkgo leaves, tumbling down between light and dark screens with a red Plum Vase waiting to be filled. A study between light and dark neutrals, golden leaves and red vase brings life and contrast to the neutrals, worked in overdyed silks, floss, floche, pearl cottons, and a touch of Silk Lamé braid. Leaves are stitched with composite stitches in over-dyed cottons and silks, giving the impression of growth and depicting the dappled nature of the leaf with just a hint of sparkle. The dark side panel is stitched in overlapping Gobelin motifs using an almost-black Mandarin floss to form the lattice. The Plum vase will be stitched in a Ming Stitch variation using shiny Neon Rays.

**Student to Bring:** 12" & 16" stretcher bars, tacks or staples, a laying tool, frame or frame weight, usual stitching supplies; light and magnification recommended.

**Pre-work:** None



## 2-Day Classes: Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 16



### 101: Debbie Revisited – Debbie Stiehler

**Proficiency Level:** All

**Kit Cost:** \$0

**Ground:** Painted Canvas or Counted Needlepoint

**Design Size:** Varied

Bring an original design by Debbie or a canvas from a past *Interpreting the Painted Canvas* workshop with a stitch guide by Debbie. Come stitch in a relaxed atmosphere with old and new friends. Refresh or learn new techniques by sharing with classmates.

**Student to Bring:** One of Debbie's original designs or a canvas from a past *Interpreting the Painted Canvas* workshop with a stitch guide by Debbie.

**Pre-work:** None

## 2-Day Classes: Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 16

### 102: Japanese Embroidery Study Group – Mary Alice Sinton

**Proficiency Level:** All

**Kit Cost:** Varies; to be purchased prior to class from instructor

**Ground:** 100% Silk Fabric

**Design Size:** N/A

All levels of Japanese Silk Embroidery and Japanese Bead Embroidery are taught including Phase pieces and Challenge pieces enhancing the student's journey into the way of Japanese Silk Embroidery. Exploring Japanese Embroidery (JE) helps a student improve their overall stitching in any medium with the discipline and structure found in this curriculum. Please allow a minimum of 6 weeks prior to class to order a Japanese Embroidery kit.



**Student to Bring:** JE supplies including awl, Tekobari, JE needles, scissors, magnification, light box.

**Pre-work:** None



### 103: Country Garden Basket – Mendie Cannon

**Proficiency Level:** Basic/Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$129

**Ground:** Trigger Cloth

**Design Size:** 5" x 7"

An elegant basket of flowers ready to sit on the guest book table of a lovely spring garden wedding. *Country Garden Basket* would be a lovely gift for someone's birthday, anniversary or wedding. You will learn the basic Brazilian Embroidery stitches while creating a design you will cherish. Stitches use 4 of the 8 weights of thread and include: stem, leaf, couching, bullion, cast-on, double cast-on, Hungarian braid, French or colonial knots, and pistil. Upon completion of this design

you will have the skill and knowledge to use these stitches to form the various flowers and leaves and you will be ready to work on more advanced Brazilian Embroidery designs.

**Student to Bring:** 8" or 10" hoop or 10" x 10" stretcher bars and tacks, light and magnification if needed.

**Pre-work:** None

## 2-Day Classes: Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 16

### 104: A Rose and Gold: A Study in Silk & Metal Thread – Margaret Kinsey

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$80

**Ground:** Silk

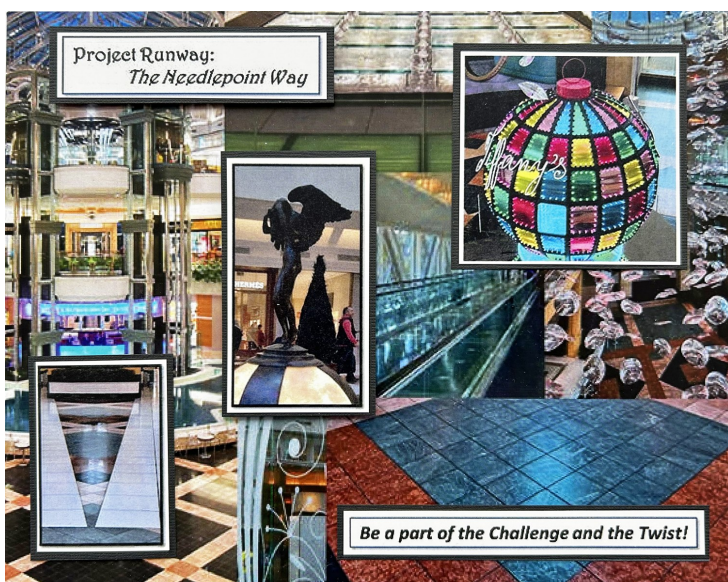
**Design Size:** 4 ½" x 4 ¼"

The red rose forms the center motif of this design. It is surrounded by gold leaves, acorns, and arabesque. The design itself is reminiscent of a motif from medieval architecture. The Rose outline padding is #5 red Japan metallic thread, with the final layer stitched with soie ovale. The gilt kid leaves are appliquéd with invisible stitches, then outlined with #7 check thread. Pearl purl forms the veins and stems, with check thread adding width to the outsides of the stems. The acorn's cup is padded with cotton thread and felt. The final layer on the acorn cup is smooth purl worked in a vertical satin stitch. The acorn top has a felt padding and is overlaid with chips of bright check purl. The arabesque is worked in Japan thread, imitation gold, check thread, gold twist and check thread. The piece is worked on a silk fabric with a cotton backing fabric.



**Student to Bring:** 10" x 12" stretcher bars; tacks or staple gun with staples; laying tool; 6" clear ruler; silk, metal, and felt cutting scissors; tweezers with fine point; thimble; beeswax; and a velvet board or a chipping box.

**Pre-work:** None



### 105: Project Runway: The Needlepoint Way – Dawn Donnelly

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate/Advanced

**Kit Cost:** \$65

**Ground:** 18-ct Mono Canvas

**Design Size:** 6" x 8"

Inspired by the TV series *Project Runway*, the student is challenged to create a needlepoint piece based on one of the pictures they take while roaming Somerset Collection Mall. The student will design/create a line drawing of their idea, decide on colors, and select the stitches. We'll then visit a local shop to select threads and supplies. The twist for this class will be to include a piece of wire. The student will start stitching in class, then go home

and complete the piece, and enter it into NAN's exhibition, *The Exemplary*, the following year. The favorite of the entered pieces will be picked by those visiting the exhibition.

**Student to Bring:** 10" x 12" stretcher bars, tacks, phone capable of taking pictures, threads from your stash, laying tool, drawing pencils, colored pencils, paper scissors, scissors to cut wire, magnifier and light if needed, usual stitching supplies and stitch books.

**Pre-work:** None

## 2-Day Classes: Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 16

### 106: Zelda the Patchwork Zebra – Toni Gerdes

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$175

**Ground:** 18-ct White Mono Canvas

**Design Size:** 11" x 9"

*Zelda* is an exuberant patchwork zebra with her stripes of many colors. She is the fourth in a series of patchwork animals; the first was *Elliot the Patchwork Elephant* followed by *Gertrude the Patchwork Giraffe* and *Larry the Patchwork Lion*. The jewel tone color palette makes *Zelda* exquisite. Her "false" eyelashes will have her flirting with you. Several Rainbow Gallery metallics, Caron threads, Straw Silk & Planet Earth Threads, along with beautiful beads will be used to create her captivating design. The stitches will include old favorites, as well as a few surprises. The background will be a white-on-white diagonal pattern that emphasizes the design and enhances *Zelda's* whimsical personality.



**Student to Bring:** 15" x 13" stretcher bars and usual stitching supplies.

**Pre-work:** None



### 107: Copper Diamond – Kathy Rees

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$120

**Ground:** 18-ct Mono Canvas

**Design Size:** 3 1/2" x 12"

An abstract geometric, *Copper Diamond* features a diamond of batik fabric applied to the canvas. A variety of stitches are used to produce movement and create diamond shapes within the design. Threads used include Gloriana silks, Vineyard Silks, DMC Pearl Cotton, ThreadworX overdyed threads, and assorted Rainbow Gallery threads. Compensation and placement of stitched areas will be discussed, and the student will be able to adapt the piece if they desire.

**Student to Bring:** 8" x 16" stretcher bars, tacks, laying tool, magnification/light if desired and usual stitching supplies.

**Pre-work:** None



## 2-Day Classes: Monday, March 17 through Tuesday, March 18

### 202: Japanese Embroidery Study Group – *Mary Alice Sinton*

**Proficiency Level:** All

**Kit Cost:** Varies; to be purchased prior to class from instructor

**Ground:** 100% Silk Fabric

**Design Size:** Varied

All levels of Japanese Silk Embroidery and Japanese Bead Embroidery are taught including Phase pieces and Challenge pieces enhancing the student's journey into the way of Japanese Silk Embroidery. Exploring Japanese Embroidery (JE) helps a student improve their overall stitching in any medium with the discipline and structure found in this discipline. Please allow a minimum of 6 weeks prior to class to order a Japanese Embroidery kit.



**Student to Bring:** JE supplies, including awl, Tekobari, JE needles, scissors, magnification, light box.

**Pre-work:** None



### 203: Four Seasons – *Mendie Cannon*

**Proficiency Level:** Basic/Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$142

**Ground:** Trigger Cloth

**Design Size:** 8" x 8"

All the seasons are represented in one design. No need to change décor for the right seasonal piece as all are provided: Poinsettia for winter, Mum for fall, Zinnia for summer and Cherry Blossoms for spring. This design is destined to become a favorite and maybe even a family heirloom. Stitch it for yourself or friends or family members. Finish as a framed piece, a box top or however you can imagine it – maybe the top of your sewing box.

**Student to Bring:** 10" x 10" stretcher bars.

**Pre-work:** None



## 2-Day Classes: Monday, March 17 through Tuesday, March 18

### 204: Flame Sampler – Margaret Kinsey

**Proficiency Level:** All

**Kit Cost:** \$85

**Ground:** Ro

**Design Size:** 6" x 7 3/4"

Navy and rose are the main colors in this sampler, with accents of gold and pale yellows. This project uses silk, brocade and gold metallic threads. The silks are navy, peach, light yellow and gold. The stitches employed are *ichi dan* straight, line, *ni dan* straight, *ni dan* step, and *san dan*. There are three stitched patterns: flame, diamond, and *ni dan* step.

**Student to Bring:** Needle threader for fine and tapestry needles, scissors for cutting silks and another pair for cutting metal thread, a thimble, beeswax, light and magnification if needed.

**Pre-work:** None



### 205: Flowering Maple – Celeste Chalasani

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Prerequisites:** Experience with surface embroidery including Long and Short stitch

**Kit Cost:** \$70

**Ground:** Silk Shantung

**Design Size:** 5" x 4"

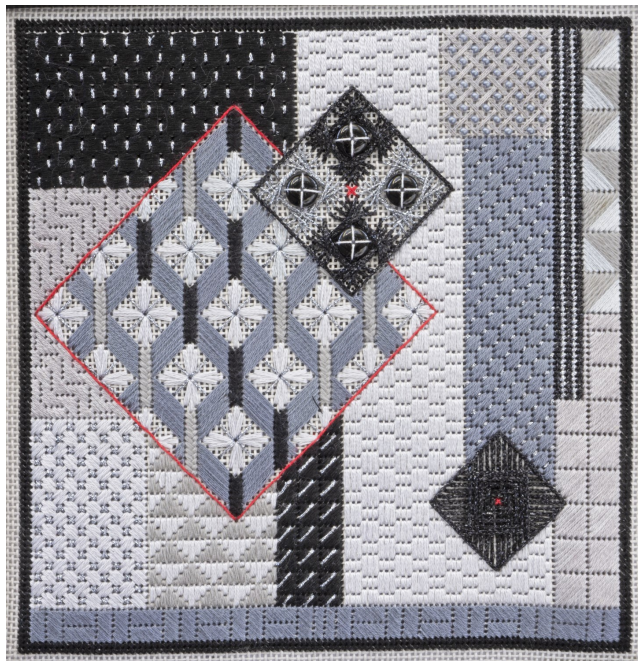
Small lantern-like flowers dangle delicately in this Contemporary Stumpwork design. Large green leaves provide a vibrant background for the festive pink flowers. You'll use intermediate techniques including padding and wired slips to create this tropical themed design. Your kit includes silk shantung and cotton fabric,

stranded cotton and silk threads, felt for padding, 33-gauge wire, and needles. Left-handed instructions available upon request.

**Student to Bring:** 12" x 12" Evertite frames or stretcher bars, one 4" embroidery hoop, wire cutters, 6" ruler with English and metric markings, artist or masking tape, mechanical pencil, small sharp scissors, paper cutting scissors, cream colored sewing thread, fine needle threader, and usual stitching supplies. Magnification and good lighting are highly recommended. Optional: a doodle cloth to practice stitches.

**Pre-work:** Students will transfer the design to their background fabric.

## 2-Day Classes: Monday, March 17 through Tuesday, March 18



### 206: Night on the Town – Jennifer Riefenberg

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$90

**Ground:** 18-ct Mono Canvas

**Design Size:** 6" x 6"

This design is one of a new series of charted designs, celebrating and modifying the traditional samplers. The kit contains a variety of threads including metallics, cotton, silks, and wool. *Night on the Town* dresses it up in a dramatic and elegant design that feels like a special event – come on out and enjoy the glittering evening! Learn some new stitches and apply them to the areas of a design for better effect. Also, learn about value in a design.

**Student to Bring:** 10" stretcher bars and usual stitching supplies.

**Pre-work:** None

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### 207: Rustling Leaves – Kathy Rees

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate

**Kit Cost:** \$120

**Ground:** 18-ct Mono Canvas

**Design Size:** 4" x 12"

The days are getting shorter, there's a chill in the air, and the leaves are falling. It's a perfect day for a walk in the park! Layers of threads and stitches create the areas above and below the center ribbon of leaves and stones created with beaded embroidery and embellishments. Students will be given instructions to reproduce my beaded design area but will also be encouraged to put their own spin on it. Kits will include a package of beads and embellishments.



**Student to Bring:** 8" x 16" stretcher bars, tacks, laying tool, magnification/light if desired, and usual stitching supplies.

**Pre-work:** None



## Teacher Biographies, continued

### **Dawn Donnelly**

Dawn is a mixed-media artist who enjoys incorporating other forms of art within needlepoint. She holds a Teachers' Certification in canvas with NAN and teaches nationally and locally for NAN, ANG, and EGA. Dawn has been recognized for the excellence of her work in numerous exhibitions. She spends her time volunteering as Membership Chair and Registrar for NAN, and as President of ANG's Magnificent Obsession Chapter. Several of her articles have been published in *Needlepoint Now* and *Needle Pointers*. [www.threadupdd.com](http://www.threadupdd.com)

### **Toni Gerdes**

Toni Gerdes holds Teachers' Certification from NAN, specializing in canvas embroidery. She currently serves on the NAN Board of Directors as the Director of Education after serving 5 years as Assistant Director of Teachers' Certification. Toni has also served on the Boards of several ANG chapters as Program Chair and President, and is a past President of NETA. She has received numerous awards for her designs as well as the prestigious NAN Lifetime Achievement Award. Toni has taught for NAN, EGA, and ANG, as well as guilds and shops. She has been published in *Needlepointers* and *Needlepoint Now*, and in *Needle Arts* as the Artist Across America. Toni enjoys all types of stitching and especially sharing her knowledge with others. She currently resides in Colorado. [www.tonigerdes.com](http://www.tonigerdes.com)

### **Diane Herrmann**

Diane holds Teachers' Certification in canvas embroidery from NAN and is currently NAN's Director of Teachers' Certification. She has taught nationally and for local and regional guilds and chapters, and has received several prestigious awards and honors for her work. As a retired University of Chicago mathematics instructor, Diane often uses math concepts as inspiration for her designs and presentations. She also has a special interest in textiles from the Maya tradition. [www.dianehermann.com](http://www.dianehermann.com)

### **Margaret Kinsey**

Margaret is an EGA-Certified Teacher in Silk and Metal Thread Techniques, and is also certified to teach Japanese Traditional Embroidery. She is the designated US teacher for the Kunimitsu Rozashi Studio and studies with Fumiko Ozaki. Margaret has taught at all levels of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, for ANG national seminar and its chapters, for the NAN Assembly, and for The Embroidery Association of Canada conference and its chapters. In 2021, she was given the NAN Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her contributions. Margaret lives in Deltona, FL.

### **Wendy Moore**

Wendy brings both her MFA degree in Costume Design and fourteen years of teaching to her needlework design and instruction, with a great interest in color theory and computer work. She is fascinated by mathematical and perceptual puzzles, which comes out in her designs. She teaches designs locally and has completed Teachers' Certification in Canvas Embroidery through NAN. In addition to NAN and EGA, Wendy is also a member of ANG Great Lakes Stitchers Chapter. She has held many offices for Monguagon EGA chapter and Great Lakes Region EGA.

### **Kathy Rees**

Kathy learned to cross stitch at age 14 and has never stopped using a needle. After earning a business degree and working in the corporate world, she began managing her family's needlework shop, teaching classes, designing counted canvas, and eventually committing herself to designing and teaching. She enjoys working with color and multiple overdyed threads. Kathy has taught at EGA chapters, EGA regional and national Seminars, ANG Seminars, and TNNA's wholesale trade shows, and lectures and teaches at shops and guilds throughout the US and online. Her designs have won numerous ribbons and awards, and she has been published in *Needlepoint Now*.

*Continued on next page...*

## Teacher Biographies, continued

### **Jennifer Riefenberg**

Jennifer enjoys teaching – both technical skills and the pure love of art and creativity. She is actively teaching both in person as well as remotely, which removes geographic constraints. Jennifer holds Teachers' and Judges' Certifications through NAN and serves on the NAN Board as the Director of Judges' Certification. She was selected as the Designer Across America for EGA in 2019 and has been published in several magazines including *Needle Pointers*. She is also an artist and has won national and regional awards for her paintings. She is currently exhibiting her work at galleries in Denver and Boulder, CO. [www.artofsunshine.com](http://www.artofsunshine.com)

### **Mary Alice Sinton**

Mary Alice obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design in 1975 from Stephens College of Columbia, MO. She started her needle arts career studying Hawaiian quilting while living in Hawaii 1976-1982. During the 1980's she won several international awards with her Hawaiian quilting original designs. Mary Alice began studying Japanese Em-

broidery in 1990 and traveled twice to Japan to study at Kurenai-Kai. She certified to teach Traditional Japanese Embroidery in 1999 and Japanese Bead Embroidery in 2004. She taught the Young Student's class at the Japanese Embroidery Center from 1995-2005. Mary Alice teaches Japanese Silk and Bead Embroidery monthly by Zoom and in person in her home, and at regional and national seminars around the US. [www.bluebonnetstudio.com](http://www.bluebonnetstudio.com)

### **Debbie Stiehler**

Debbie is an international needle art designer, teacher, and lecturer who combines artistic ability with a sense of humor to mentor students in finding their own talents. She has taught at many seminars, guilds, and privately in the US and Canada. Debbie completed NAN's Teachers' Certification, is an EGA Master Craftsman in canvas embroidery, and served for more than 10 years on the NAN Board of Directors. Debbie has authored numerous articles for *NANthology*, *NeedlePointers*, *Needlearts*, and *Needlepoint Now*. She currently resides in South Carolina.

## National Academy of Needlearts Mission

The National Academy of Needlearts was established in 1985 as an organization devoted to the advancement of embroidery as an art form. Its goal is to uphold the highest standards in the needlearts by providing excellence in education to all those interested in furthering their embroidery skills as teachers, judges, artists, designers, authors, or technically proficient embroiderers.

The Academy maintains its outstanding archival collection of embroidery at the Gregg Museum of Arts & Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NAN annually sponsors its Assembly for Embroiderers, which is an unrivaled needlework seminar for stitchers of all skill levels and interests who are members of the Academy.

**We put the "ART" in needleart!**