

Thread Tales.



.A sewing magazine.

By

Thalassa

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Dear Readers,

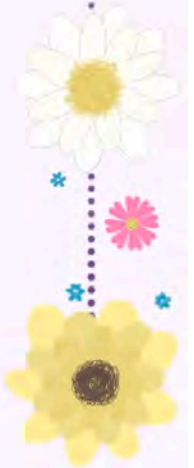
This is a magazine about all things sewing -- from arpilleras to zig zag stitch; you will find different types of sewing techniques described, and stories about textile artists. This magazine will show you, and teach you, about sewing, and it will be fun as well! Look for games, patterns, interviews, mazes, recipes, and quizzes. I hope this issue inspires you, and you enjoy!

Thank you for reading!

Your editor, Thalassa



Each stitch,
Makes a,
Beautiful poem,
Rested on thin fabric,
Over & over the needle jumps around,
Intertwining the materials,
Days & nights of work,
Every piece is different,
Resting in the maker's hands,
Years of techniques passed down,



Perfectly even template,
Always different & yet the same,
Tracing around the cut out,
Transferring shapes to the fabric,
Each piece is necessary,
Resting fabric on fabric,
Nothing is perfect but it is close,





Nature's quilt

Mountains spread across the land like yards of fabric. As the sun slowly sets it shows all the folds & imperfections that make it beautiful. Trees pin everything where it needs to be. As seasons change different colors & patterns get patched on. We are all different but this connects us like we are all family. As animals dart in & out of gardens and forests like a needle; water trickles behind like a thread taking awhile to get across this land. A quilt of nature unfolding throughout time.

Sewing book review:

Into the Woods by Kim Edith, is a beautiful 8" x 10" book, filled with 20 pages of photographed images the artist has made out of fabric, that depict the creatures you could find in the forest if you looked around closely and quietly, as well as different elements from nature.

The first page has an owl (almost a barnowl with its heart shaped face) sitting on what looks like a post. It is on a dark background almost like night time, making all of the flowers pop as if they were illuminated.

Maybe she put the owl first to greet the reader. The next page shows three embroidered feathers, almost as if they came off the owl. They ask you to look very closely so you can see all the details. The background is almost like moss, the color of a fern, and it has different embroidered spots on it, giving it depth and texture.



One of my favorite pages in the book is a double spread of different types of mushrooms labelled with numbers. #27 is pink and the inside of the mushroom displays lines of embroidery floss for gills; the stem is white and covered with sequins. #31 is a tall, brown mushroom with chain stitch spots on its cap; it may possibly be a morell. Beside it, #32 is an all-pink multi-capped mushroom cluster, and each of the mushrooms has a lacelike texture on the bottom of their caps. Their stems are very thin and all connect at the bottom. Kim Edith's tools (embroidery stitches, embellishments, and fabrics) allow her to show the diversity and beauty of different mushrooms with all their distinct patterns.

On another spread there's a campsite scene of a forest with constellations above it made with beads and sequins. On the facing page, there's a deer walking through the forest. Its face has a sense of wonder. It's turning toward the viewer as if it were asking a question. Perhaps, "Why are you here?" or "Take care of the land so everybody can enjoy it."



Some of the pages are more detailed than others, they're more realistic and up-close, like the last page, which shows a zoomed-in robin's nest with three blue eggs; the nest is almost a circle built out of different patterned stitches and bits of fabric to make it look like sticks. The opposite page shows a white silhouette of a tree-trunk (an absence of white) and its branches, and between its branches are different embellishments (like buttons) and stitches to make leaves. The different textures and patterns of all the fabrics across the spread, each different but in related color schemes, and the usage of white on both – one, the tree zoomed in, and the other with its white background, all suggest nature is beautiful and we shouldn't cut down trees and get rid of homes for animals but instead preserve the magical land.

With the first page showing the owl greeting you, and the last page with its robin's eggs and nest, the book seems cohesive, specifically with the artist pointing out birds. Also, the eggs make it seem almost like the story is beginning again.

I got this beautiful book as a gift; every time I look at it, I see something new.

If you would like a copy, it's available on Kim Edith's etsy page "Whimsarium": https://www.etsy.com/shop/Whimsarium?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=731534829. I recommend it, because in this book, you can see the beauty of nature up close.



Tulip & The Rainbow Dance



Once upon a time, there was a little mouse named tulip. Tulip lived in a pine cone with her family. Tulip liked to draw & paint the flowers in the field. One day as she was walking to the field with her art supplies she over heard two mice talking about a flower dance coming up & she thought it would be fun to go. She asked the two mice about the dance & they sed anyone is welcome but you have to wear something fancy; tulip didn't have any fancy ball dresses & didn't know were she could get one. She walked up to the field & was thinking about how she couldn't go; she put her bag down & took out her art supplies. She looked around for the perfect flower to draw & then looked down at her page; she didn't what she wanted to draw so she started sketching out dresses but none of them she loved.

She then looked up & the sun was shining on a patch of beautiful rainbow flowers & she got an idea. She pulled out her paints & colored in one of her designs; her eyes sparkled it was perfect. She grabbed her art supplies & ran to the flowers, she picked a couple of the flowers & than ran home. She spread out the flowers and grabbed a strand of grass for the thread and a pice of hay for the needle & started stitching together all the petals in to a dress like shape. it took forever but it was done. She took a step back & looked at her creation. It was magnificent, a rainbow flower ball gown. She was very proud.

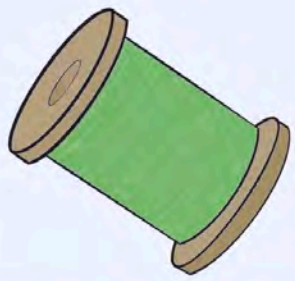
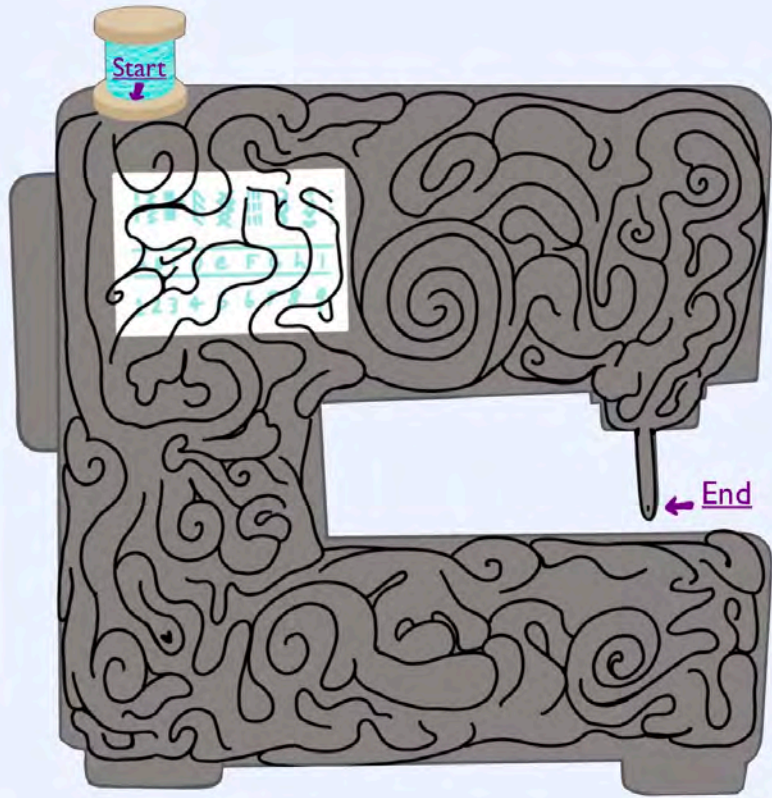
She hung it up & went out to the flower field & picked one more flower. as she was going home she saw the two mice that told he about the dance. They asked if she was going to go to the dance & they sed it was tonight. Tulip was excited & sed yes & than ran home. She put on her handmade dress & put the freshly picked flower behind her ear. Then she walked to the dance, it was held in a huge rose. Everyone loved her dress & she had a wonderful time dancing.



Maze



Help the seamstress thread the sewing machine so she can finish her project.



INTERVIEW with Booky Margoof, Toymaker and teacher.

Interested in learning, playing, and finding yetis!



<https://www.instagram.com/bookymargoof/>



<https://www.etsy.com/shop/FeltBeasts>



1) Since I met you through DIY, I'm wondering what your experience there was like? (I was very sad when you left!) Is this kind of maker-community pretty unusual?

I've never seen anything quite like DIY's maker community, neither at the time nor now. Both of its communities—the kids who used it and the adults who built it—were full of incredible, creative, and unique people who cared about each other and building spaces to help others learn and grow. It wasn't a perfect place (jobs seldom are!), but it was an incredibly special experience for me that had a big, positive impact on my life in all ways. I miss it constantly!

2) Where do you live now, and what do you teach?

I technically live in Portland, Oregon, but I am in the process of moving to Berlin, Germany!

I'm not a teacher in a traditional sense, but I still consider myself one! I teach in lots of ways: I run workshops, I write about learning new skills online, I work with people 1:1 to help them learn or make things.

My professional career has been focused on new education for 7 years. I'm less interested in traditional K–12 school and more interested in what learning looks like now that technology has connected us to new information, new groups of people, and new opportunities to discover passions not taught in school. I currently work for a nonprofit that collaborates with libraries to create free study groups for people to learn new skills together in-person.

3) How would you describe sewing to an alien? :-)

Oh, that's hard! I would probably use gestures rather than language since I don't know if they'd understand human words!

In words, maybe "sewing is a way to connect pieces of things together with a needle and thread"? I'd love to know how you'd answer this!

4) When did you start sewing? What was your first project? Did somebody teach you/help you?

- Funny enough, I know exactly when I started sewing! I was in a Montessori school when I was young, and I recently found my old assessment sheets: I was introduced to sewing in March 1997 when I was 5 years old and apparently quite liked it.

My grandmother was an avid crafter who sewed, painted, drew, knit, crocheted, you name it! Our house was covered in her creations, especially around Christmastime when we'd pull out her homemade decorations: stuffed Santas, red and green homemade tea cozies, you name it. I think those probably inspired me from a young age, though she passed away when I was young so I don't remember if I got to learn directly from her.

I don't think I did a ton of sewing projects as I was growing up, though I recently found pictures from the time I sewed my own beanie baby! (attached) I altered a pattern for a unicorn plush and turned it into a dragon inspired by my school district mascot. I remember my mom helping me use our old sewing machine to make that.

Around the time I started high school, I started doing more sewing projects and got really into working with fleece, a soft cuddly material. I've always preferred hand-sewing over using a machine unless I'm making really big projects, so I think most of my projects were just done with a needle and thread. The first thing I remember making was a small replica of an iPod, then I mostly made gifts for friends. (see attached: iPod (2006), plush dinosaur (2007), punctuation giraffe (2007), blue monster (2008))



5) What's the most useful sewing/crafting thing you've learned?

- No matter how bad a project or experiment turns out, putting a smiley face on it will make it instantly great



6) What jobs have you had/do you have that involve using fabric?

- I've never had a job that was strictly fabric-related, though I've had a few jobs where I was making lots of things, some of which had fabric in them. I worked at a company called KiwiCrate that makes science/arts and crafts kits for kids, and we got to invent, make, and test dozens of toys and activities that would eventually become kits. Among other things, I remember creating many versions of felt crabs that were designed to be sewn, stuffed, and turned into beanbags. We also spent a long time trying to figure out how to turn socks into hobby horses—that one was hard!

7) What is your favorite fabric to use when making plush toys & why?

I really like working with felt. It holds its shape really well (way easier than stretchy fabric!) and comes in a wide range of textures and colors. Embroidery looks really nice on felt and it's easy to re-use scraps for details, tiny projects, or even stuffing the insides of bigger projects.



8) What is your favorite creature to sew?



It's not a specific character, but I really like turning different foods into characters! There are so many unique and interesting shapes, textures, patterns, and colors in food. It's fun to try and replicate them in embroidery, painting, sculpture, you name it!

9) Do you have any tips for when one's sewing?

Keep going! I did a project in 2015 where I sewed 100 felt creatures after years of not sewing, and I was frustrated with how messy my stitches were. By the time I was done with the 100 creatures, my stitching skills were next level! 5 years later, I can sew very precisely and neatly without even thinking about it.

10) Do you have any advice for starting a shop?

Starting a shop is challenging! I don't consider myself a successful Etsy shopkeeper by any means—I much prefer making things and keeping them or giving them away rather than advertising and selling them. My preference is to focus on making the art that I want to make, then sell copies or custom versions to people who contact me about buying something I've made. (I also don't make a living selling my art! I work full-time in education and make things for fun, so I'm lucky that I can make whatever I want without worrying if someone will want to buy it.)

11) What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

I really like ice cream that has tasty bits of stuff in it like swirls of caramel, chunks of fudge, or tiny peanut butter cups. If I'm buying ice cream at the store, I always go for So Delicious Salted Caramel Cluster (made from cashew milk).



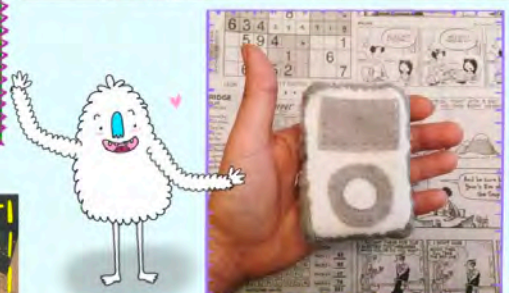
12) Where's your favorite place to travel to and why?

Another tough one! My favorite country I've ever been is The Netherlands. I love the architecture in the cities and the natural beauty of the countryside. I also really love Portland, OR which is one of the most beautiful places I've ever visited—I liked it so much that I moved there! It has the most wonderful flowers and natural beauty I've ever seen in a city.

13) What's most surprising to you?

Something I've realized in the last year:

mistakes are great! If something goes wrong, that means two things: 1) I get to try again and 2) I learned a way to not do one thing which means I might have learned the right way to do something else! Many of my favorite creations started as ideas that I only thought of because of a mistake in a previous project that had an interesting and unexpected result.



1 When you are sewing do you...

- A** Use a pattern you found,
- B** Make a pattern,
- C** Just wing it,



2 When sewing something Do you...

- A** Only use a sewing machine,
- B** Hand sew everything,
- C** Use both,



3 If you embroidered something would you...

- A** Embroider a quilt,
- B** Embroider a hat,
- C** Embroider a dress,



4 When you are sewing do you...

- A** Pick only two colors,
- B** Pick four colors,
- C** Pick a rainbow; the more colors the better,



5 In the winter do you grab...

- A** A machine embroidered scarf,
- B** Hand sewn socks,
- C** Embroidered fingerless gloves,



6 Last minute Halloween costume & you need to sew something...

- A** Sew some flowers on a crown; and you are a flower princess,
- B** Cut fishes out of a old pice of fabric & sew them on a blue dress, then add some green ribbon & you are the ocean floor,
- C** Sew black stripes on a yellow dress & add pom poms attached to pipe cleaners on a headband, then cut out felt flowers and sew them on to a dog collar. You are a bee and your doggo is a flower,



You got mostly A's

You are a pattern person. You like everything to be even & you like a simple color scheme & small details. you have a love for rules & You are celebrated for you're perfectionism.



You got mostly B's

You are a hand sewer. You like everything a bit wonky & Some color to brighten up everything. If you had to decide between a new shirt or making one you would make one. The world is a better place because you recycle & sew everything yourself.



You got mostly C's

You are a imaginative sewer. You like sewing with everything & love embroidering. You love color; color is everything & it makes everything so much better. You sew to make you & other people happy & to make people ask where did you get those?

CHOCOLATE THREADED SPOOL MACARONS

(Inspired by Tasty's basic macaron recipe; with some modifications for sewing enthusiasts.

<https://tasty.co/recipe/macarons>)

- * 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups powdered sugar
- * 1 cup almond flour, finely ground
- * 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- * 3 egg whites, at room temperature
- * $\frac{1}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- * $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract
- * 2 drops pink gel food coloring



Preparation

Make the macarons: In the bowl of a food processor, combine the powdered sugar, almond flour, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt, and process on low speed, until extra fine. Sift the almond flour mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a large bowl.

In a separate large bowl, beat the egg whites and the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt with an electric hand mixer until soft peaks form. Gradually add the granulated sugar until fully incorporated. Continue to beat until stiff peaks form (you should be able to turn the bowl upside down without anything falling out).

Add the vanilla and beat until incorporated. Add the food coloring and beat until just combined.

Add about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the sifted almond flour mixture at a time to the beaten egg whites and use a spatula to gently fold until combined. After the last addition of almond flour, continue to fold slowly until the batter falls into ribbons and you can make a figure 8 while holding the spatula up.

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- * Transfer the macaron batter into a piping bag fitted with a round tip.

*

- * Place 4 dots of the batter in each corner of a rimmed baking sheet, and place a piece of parchment paper over it, using the batter to help adhere the parchment to the baking sheet.

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* Pipe the macarons onto the parchment paper in 1½-inch (3-cm) circles, spacing at least 1-inch (2-cm) apart.

*

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* Tap the baking sheet on a flat surface 5 times to release any air bubbles.

*

*

* Let the macarons sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to 1 hour, until dry to the touch.

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* Preheat the oven to 300°F (150°C).

* Bake the macarons for 17 minutes, until the feet are well-risen and the macarons don't stick to the parchment paper.

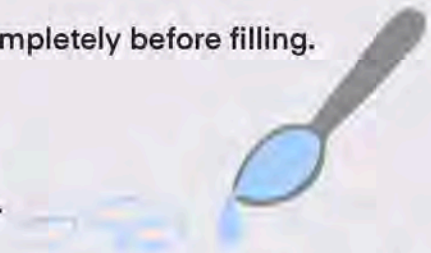
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* Transfer the macarons to a wire rack to cool completely before filling.

Chocolate thread filling

2 oz chocolate candy melts.



Take the chocolate and melt it down in a double boiler so the chocolate is smooth with no lumps. Stir the chocolate so it does not burn. Get a spoon and take a scoop of the chocolate. Tilt the spoon down a bit so it will drip off the end, and move the spoon in small circles all approximately the same size. Then, take the leftover chocolate, and stack and stick together 4-5 circles to form a tube.

VANILLA BUTTERCREAM

* 1 cup unsalted butter, 2 sticks, at room temperature

* 3 cups powdered sugar

* 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

* 3 tablespoons heavy cream



* Make the buttercream: In a large bowl, add the butter and beat with a mixer for 1 minute until light and fluffy. Sift in the powdered sugar and beat until fully incorporated. Add the vanilla and beat to combine. Add the cream, 1 tablespoon at a time, and beat to combine, until desired consistency is reached.

* Transfer the buttercream to a piping bag fitted with a round tip.

Next, pipe inside the chocolate thread tube. Be careful; the chocolate can break very easily.

Once you have finished, you can place the chocolate and buttercream thread combos two macaron shells.

And there you go! You've made Macaron Thread Spools. Enjoy this tasty treat!

HOW TO...

How to Embroider a Flower Bouquet



Here's what you'll need:

scissors

needle

embroidery floss (green for stems, along with 2 other colors you like)

Skinny ribbon

fabric

2 or more buttons or sequins (optional) for flower centers

1. Take a piece of fabric and embroider blanket stitch around it. (How to do blanket stitch: Take a piece of embroidery floss and a needle; knot the end of the string, and poke the other end of the string through the eye of the needle. First poke the needle up through the fabric about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge, then take the string and make a big U off the edge, then poke the needle back down without making the U disappear; then pull the needle up through the U so that the thread looks like a square without a bottom along the edge of the fabric. Repeat around the whole piece of fabric. Knot the string when you get to the end, and cut close to the knot.

2. Making a flower: Take more embroidery floss and knot the end, thread the needle again, and poke it up through the middle of the fabric. Make a thin U; hold it with your thumb, poke the needle back down where it came up. Pull a tiny bit but not enough to make the U disappear. Turn fabric over, Poke the needle down so it's a teeny bit under the U, then pull it so the U is touching the string, then loop it over the tip of the U and poke it back down through the fabric to anchor the first petal. Repeat this process 5 times to make flower.

Once done, knot the end of the string on the back of the fabric, and cut it close to the knot. Repeat this process as many times as you want, depending upon how many flowers you want in your bouquet. One can do different things for the center. One can make a French knot, or sew on a button, or a sequin. (For French knot: Poke yellow thread through back of flower center. Take needle tip, put it close to flower, wrap floss around needle tip 3 times.

Slide coil of three loops down onto fabric and hold down with non-needle hand thumb, pull floss with needle hand to its end, then reinsert needle tip as close as possible (but not in) beside the coil of loops. Finally pull floss all the way through to create a raised knot in the center of the flower. Give all flowers centers so they look finished.

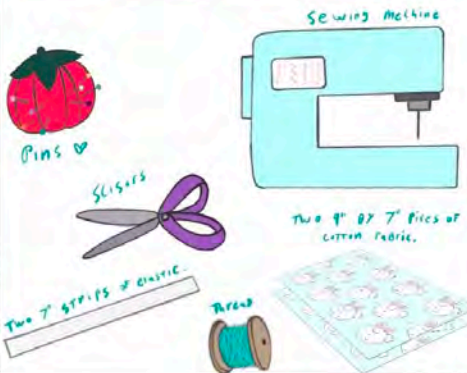
3. Make stems with green embroidery floss. Thread a needle and knot the end. Poke needle through fabric from back beside the flowers, pull down as far as you want for the length of each stem; cut at that length, repeat; make $\frac{1}{2}$ as many stems as flowers if you have more than three flowers, trimming each stem to the length you want. (The stems will seem unsecured for a moment before you anchor them with a ribbon.) Thread a needle with the skinniest ribbon, knot it, and poke up from back. Cut at 4 inches. Repeat beside. On front, tie both sides of the ribbon into a bow around the flower stems.

Voilà! A lovely bouquet of flowers that lasts all year long! You could do this on jeans, jackets, pretty much any piece of clothing in order to spruce up your outfits. Or, you could attach a braid on both sides of the top of your piece of decorated fabric to make a little banner to hang, or you could make a bookmark by braiding embroidery floss on one end of your decorated strip.

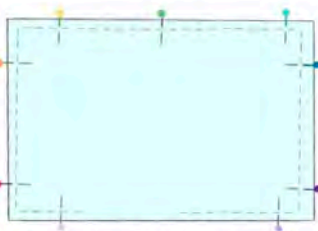




Ingredients



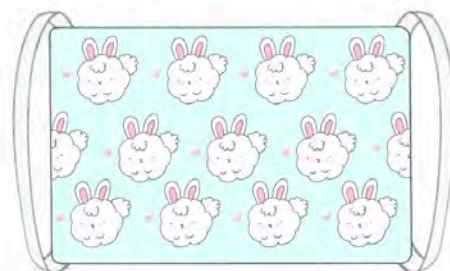
First you need to get out your 9" by 7" Cotton rectangles and turn them inside out so the patterned side is on the inside .



Next, pin together the pieces of fabric and sew a quarter inch away from the edge of the fabric. Once you reach the corner, take a strip of elastic and put the end in between the two sheets of fabric; then, sew over. Repeat with the remaining corners. Then, once you are two inches away from where you started sewing, stop sewing.



When you are done sewing around the mask then turn the fabric inside out.



Once you turn your mask inside out cut the loose threads off and straighten up the edges of the mask



Then take the edges of the mask and pin two pleats on each side making sure the pleats are the same on each side then sew around the entire mask edge.



Go around the mask edge once more then trim of all the excess thread.



Congratulations! Once you finished all the steps you have a mask you made all yourself

Here are 3 examples I made

And then I hand-embroidered over them



My Arpilleras

(Note: Arpilleras defined, by Lorna Dillon: "An arpillera is an art work, formed of appliqué or embroidery on a background of sack cloth. The word arpillera originally refers to the coarse woven fabric that is used for sacking. In the UK jute is the material that has traditionally been used for this purpose. In the US the term burlap is used to describe this kind of material. This cloth was commonly available in the 1960s and 1970s and some artists used it as a backing material for textile art." (<https://stitchedvoices.wordpress.com/2018/04/29/what-is-an-arpillera/>))

I learned about arpilleras many years ago when I was a baby. There was a beautiful Peruvian one hanging in the house where I was taken to stay each summer. It showed a village of houses, several villagers, their animals, and their gardens and orchard. A river ran through it, dividing the village on the left side from a field where fruit trees stood with their bananas, and wild animals roamed. In the scene, there are people picking vegetables, and others are swimming. Traditional arpilleras often have many dimensions, and sometimes political messages. In the last two years, I have made three arpilleras of my own, depicting idealized versions of the house where I live, as well as an imagined place that I'd like to visit, an my neighbor's field of animals, and the Blue Mountains I look out on from my home.

The first one I made was an ocean scene showing two girls in colorful ponchos; they are standing next to two pink llamas. On the far left side of the picture, a palm tree stands. At the base of the tree, there is a pumpkin. At the top, there are bananas, and there's a branch stretching out where a little blue treehouse sits. In the middle of the scene, there are the words "Como te..." & two llamas are under them, so it reads: "Como te llamas" which means, "What's your name?" in Spanish.

My second arpillera features a girl playing her ukulele in a sunflower patch, next to her bunny friend. I play the ukulele, and my bunny's name is Penny. My arpillera has three layers; behind my picture, there is a double layer of baby pink felt backing, as a border & on top of that, there is a cotton strip of fabric with a flower pattern. I embroidered flowers on top of that. It is a fairytale-looking flower garden. I was inspired by my own garden!

My third piece is a huge (3 ½' x 4') tapestry. It shows a field in the setting sun. The moon is shining down on the blue mountains. The background is a cotton square with a galaxy pattern. Spread across the bottom of the arpillera, there are three Appaloosa mama horses & their four little babies, playing in a field of hand-embroidered flowers. At the base of the mountains, little pine trees grow.

Thanks for reading my article about arpilleras. I hope I've inspired you to start sewing stories of your own!



3-D Textile ART: My Sewn "Habitat Book 1"

"Habitat Book 1" is a fabric sculpture that I sewed by myself. It is made out of felt, and to give it its nice book shape, I covered an old hardcover book with fabric.

On the bottom right side of the book there is an embroidered patch of flowers with floating felt butterflies suspended on very fine fishing line. In the middle of the right page, there is a small 3-D deer reading a mini-guidebook of flowers. At the top right of the page, more embroidered flowers grow near tall 3-D sunflowers.

Moving across to the left page, one can see little flowers and a fairy-ring of mushrooms. In the middle of the left page, there are small embroidered words like "cabbage moths," and "rain," and small 3-d creatures I made (like a snail and hedgehog) stand looking around.. At the bottom of that page, there is a 3-Dy raised garden bed, with tiny radishes, purple cabbages, and cauliflowers made out of French knots. Besides that, there is a 3 D white bunny and more embroidered flowers (lazy-daisies and roses).

This piece represents a combination of my fairytale and real garden. I love planting flowers and I love little red toadstools. In the summer, we get deer in our garden and our vineyard, and I wanted to represent that. And the bunny is based upon my little bunny named Penny.



Back stitch



Blanket stitch



Buttonhole stitch



Chain stitch



Cross stitch



Detached chain Stitch



Ermine stitch



French knots



Herringbone stitch

