

Beads on Cloth: Bead Embroidery for Fiber Artists

Student Supply List & Workshop Schedule

Fiber Art: Bring one or two art quilts, pieces of wearable art, or felted or dyed cloth that you would like to bead (could be one each of two of these). Be sure to bring fiber art through which you can hand stitch comfortably. If what you are bringing is a single layer of cloth, think about bringing a piece of muslin, cotton flannel, or thin quilt batting to layer behind the cloth to stabilize it. Your fiber art can be any size, but smaller will be easier to use. I suggest no larger than about 36" in each direction for a quilt or cloth. A jacket or vest would be a good garment type to consider.

Beads: With seed beads and beading needles, the lower the number, the larger/thicker the bead or needle. You will want seed beads in a range of sizes from 6 (largest) to 15 (smallest). Select beads in a range of colors, finishes (matte, shiny, pearly, iridescent, etc.), degrees of opacity (opaque, translucent, transparent), and values (light, medium, dark). One hank, tube, or 1 oz. box of each color is plenty. Don't buy beads labeled "dyed"; the color is often not durable.

- 5+ harmonious colors of 11° (size 11) seed beads (more is fine)
- 3+ harmonious colors of 8° seed beads (more is fine)
- 3+ harmonious colors of 6° seed beads (more is fine)
- 1+ color of 15° seed beads (more is fine)
- Some novelty beads (2mm – 12mm max. width) in colors and shapes that appeal to you — flowers, leaves, spheres, cubes, pearls, etc.
- Optional: Bugle beads in several lengths; buttons; other objects that can be stitched onto fabric, and any other beads that appeal to you.

Additional Supplies

- 1+ spool beading thread (Nymo, K.O., or One-G in "D" weight) in a neutral color or color that blends with your fiber art. If you want to bring more than one color, I'd bring a light-medium value neutral and a dark neutral such as grey or black.
- Size 10, 11, and 12 beading needles (several of each; these can be short or long beading needles or some of each). It's okay to skip the size 11 if you can't find them.
- Small, sharp scissors for cutting thread
- A bead cloth for holding loose beads (Vellux, flannel, etc. Can be as small as about 6" x 6")
- A small spoon or "bead scoop" for picking up loose beads
- Chalk pencil in a color that will show up on your fabric, or some type of cloth-marking tool
- A pen or pencil for note-taking
- OPTIONAL: Portable task lamp; embroidery hoop that can hold your quilt/fabric; sketch pad and a few drawing supplies; thread wax or conditioner; thimbles

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

On the first day of class each student will receive a booklet full of bead embroidery illustrations, photos, and stitch information for reference during our workshop and at home.

Day 1: Dots & Small Clusters

- Stitching one bead at a time (in random forms, specific patterns, color and value variations)
- Stitching small clusters of beads
- Gradations of heights and bead densities

Day 2: Lines

- Stitch options for straight lines (solid, dashed, etc.)
- Stitch options for gentle curves
- Stitch options for tight curves
- Dimensional lines

Day 3 a.m.: Fringe

- Grouped fringes
- Looped fringes
- Novelty fringes

Day 3 p.m.: Outing to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

- After lunch we'll travel by van from our workshop site to the world-famous Tucson Gem & Mineral Show for an afternoon of shopping, learning, and taking in the wonders of this show. Students will be able to purchase some special stones to add to their fiber art.

Day 4: Bezels & Catches

- Peyote-stitch bezels (with tips for variations for experienced students)
- Securing a cabochon or large bead with netting
- Other types of beaded catches

Day 5: Larger Motifs & Individual Exploration

- Pulling multiple techniques together to create larger beaded motifs
- Individual stitch and design explorations by each student, with instructor guidance
- Sharing work and final Q&A