

The Salt Marsh
A Two-Day Class for All Levels
Laura Smith



Develop color confidence with paint and stitches as you capture the peaceful atmosphere of the salt marsh, looking out to sea. The design is painted on silk using the Serti technique, punching up textural contrast between the smooth painted sky and water and the rough stitched grasses. Subtle color concepts include perspective, value contrast, temperature contrast, and the use of color passages to unify the design.

Kit includes 10" x 10" scarf weight silk hoop for a 5"x7" design, an 8" x 8" silk hoop doodle cloth for practice painting, air soluble marker, resist applicator, Chinese sumi brush, hand stitching threads, and appropriate needles. Jacquard Silk Colors, water based resist, an iron and ironing board, and machine sewing threads will be shared by the class. Students may hand stitch or learn to combine free machine embroidery with hand stitches to speed up the work.

Kit Cost: \$58

Student to Bring

Usual stitching supplies, two old magazines to elevate silk hoop for painting

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Silk Serti Technique Examples



The Iris painted on silk



Autumn Hills painted on silk



Painted silk for Crocosmia



Crocosmia
Hand embroidery and appliqué

The rich, smooth texture of silk habotai and the brilliant colors of silk paint combine to produce a luxurious surface for embroidery. Paint made specifically for use on silk allows the fabric to retain its luminosity and softness. Students will use the Serti technique developed in France.

How does the Serti technique work? First, a design is drawn on white silk habotai fabric. Resist, a glue-like substance, is applied over the design lines to section off areas to be painted with different colors. The sections of the design must be completely enclosed with resist, thus the name Serti which means “closed fence” in French. The resist also acts as a mask for retaining white areas such as clouds and reflections on water. The line where resist is applied will remain white after the resist is removed by washing, so the stitching plan must take this into account.

Students may choose to create a base of machine stitches using free machine embroidery and then add hand stitches OR they may use only hand stitches. Both free machine techniques and hand stitches for this design will be taught.

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Silk serti paintings from a class shows a wide variety of colors, including sunrises, sunsets, and bright daylight in addition to the misty effect in the original design. A stash of threads allows students to exercise their preferences for both machine and hand stitching. When this photo was taken, some students had already begun stitching.



The resist applicator, shown above, has a narrow metal tip. Students will experiment on doodle cloths to learn to control the flow of resist. After resist is applied and allowed to dry for a few minutes, paint is flowed into the sections of the design.