

# Bryony & Bittersweet



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Specializing in Stumpwork



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## Class Overview & Goals



Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*) and Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) could be called the deadly duo. They are deceptively beautiful, with Bryony's simple yet stately pale green flowers and Bittersweet's striking violet blossoms with bright yellow anthers. Each flower, however, produces berries that when eaten can have fatal consequences. Both were alleged to have been used in the Middle Ages by witches and sorcerers.



In this class, students will stitch Bryony and Bittersweet in bloom with Needlepoint Inc., Splendor and Gloriana stranded silk thread; and Anchor cotton floss on silk shantung fabric. A two day class, **Bryony & Bittersweet** will challenge the intermediate to advanced embroiderer as they create a 5" x 9" embroidered piece on a 12" square of silk shantung suitable for framing or insertion into the top of a box.

### Goals:

- Students will explore essential Stumpwork techniques of wired slips, padded slips, needle lace and wrapped wire. By the end of the second day, students will have practiced these techniques enough to be confident to complete the project on their own.
- Students will employ a variety of surface embroidery stitches. Celeste will demonstrate stitches and work one-on-one with students to ensure understanding.
- Individualization of the project is highly encouraged! Discussions will be facilitated on making design variations, such as adding insects or berries.

### Finished Product:

A 5" x 9" embroidery on 12" x 12" square fabric, suitable for framing or insertion into a box.

### Pre-work:

Approximately 4 to 6 hours of pre-work is required. Students transfer the design and mount the fabric on an Evertite frame (or similar), then stitch the Bittersweet stems and outline the Bryony leaves.

Kits include fabric, threads, felt, needles and wire. Students will need an Evertite frame (or similar), at least one 4" hoop, sewing thread, archival quality felt tip pen (green), Avery acid-free glue stick, and magnification.

Kit fee: \$70



