

By the Rio Grande
A Two Day Class Introducing Fabric Collage and Mixed Media
Laura Smith



Capture the magical quality of light and color in the Rio Grande River Valley with embroidery combined with mixed media techniques. The sky is painted with fabric paint. The collage method is used to create the mountains and tussocky foreground. Organza is sealed with a heat tool and used for clouds and water. The main tree is created with soluble fabric. Students may stitch by hand and/or use free machine embroidery (optional) to stitch the tree and foreground.

Fabric paint will be shared, along with color mixing help. The kit includes sturdy Lutradur background fabric for 8" x 10" or 11" x 14" design (from which students may cut a smaller piece if they wish), extra Lutradur, organza, hand stitching threads, paintbrush, gel medium, appropriate needles, and instructions. Paint, fabric for collage, a heat tool, sewing machines and machine sewing threads will be shared.

Level: All

kit fee: \$62

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Here is the photo basis for *By the Rio Grande*. Each student's interpretation of a design will be different. My work is to show them how to enhance the piece in the direction of their preferences and help them gain confidence with the collage method and mixed media techniques. Colors can be changed.



Here is the collage stage of *By the Rio Grande*. It looks hard, but, as for many complex stitches, you start at one point and work forward step by step. Once you understand the process, it becomes a new tool for your embroidery toolbox.

Hand and machine stitches will be added over most areas. The sky is painted to pull up the wonderful texture of Lutradur. The river is cut using a heat tool.

In the welcome letter, students will be asked to think about their designs and color schemes. An email discussion is offered if they would like to create their own design and/or colors.

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Laura Smith, who has been stitching for fifty years, is an embroidery innovator who teaches internationally. She is the author of three popular correspondence courses for the Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA) and chairman of Fiber Forum, a group of original designers within EGA. She holds the EGA Master Craftsman in Color and has chaired the Color Program since 2006. Her website is www.Stitch4Fun.com