



Sincerely, Mary Simon:

A Baltimore Album Style Penny Rug

Deborah Gale Tirico ©2014

Sincerely, Mary Simon

A study in felted wool appliqué with embroidery embellishment

This basket of flowers is inspired by the center block of the Presentation Quilt (ca. 1849, Baltimore MD) attributed to Mary Hergenroder Simon which is in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. A presentation Quilt is no different than a Baltimore album although it is stitched by a single maker as opposed to being a contribution of blocks from numerous different makers. Generally a presentation pattern quilt was made for a specific occasion and then presented as a gift.

In this table rug I honor the legacy of Mary Simon and her amazing ability to translate the beauty of flowers into appliqué. When I studied this quilt at the Metropolitan Museum, I immediately decided to translate the center basket into my own style. In this particular design, I added beads, metallic cording and an illuminated letter to bring additional drama and dimension to the design.

Students will learn to make freezer paper patterns, create placement guides and work with templates. A variety of basting techniques will be presented for increased accuracy. In addition, students will be encouraged to embellish the rug using beads, metallic cord and wool thread in their own style to truly make the rug their own expression.

Kit contents

- Written instructions and color photography
- Full sized patterns and placement guide
- Freezer paper for pattern making
- Clear acetate for placement guide
- Black felted wool base and backing fabric
- Weeks Dye work felted wool in mustard, Louisiana hot sauce, lemon, purple rain, and meadow, collards, merlot, and candy apple.
- Tirico hand dyed felted wool in maize, buttercup yellow, mint green and golden brown.
- Weeks Dye works threads to match all felted wool colors
- Rainbow wool thread by ResNature
- Kreinik gold braid #16
- Accentuate gold thread
- Black perle cotton # 8
- DMC floss
- Seed beads for embellishment
- Crewel and tapestry needles

Kit cost \$160. US.

Students will learn appliqué methods including the tack stitch, needle slanting techniques and fabric layering methods for adding dimension to the work. The basket will be worked using bias strip techniques and easy and accurate buttonhole stitching will be presented. Tools that make working in felted wool easy and fun will be made available. The construction of the final rug will be fully discussed.

During the class I will be telling stories about Mary Simon and how an appliqué society might have been conducted back in the mid 19th century.

A variety of surface embroidery stitches will be reviewed.

This is a recently completed new work

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Detail of bias cut basket
embellished with beads and gold
braid.



Detail of dimensional roses,
buds, embroidered stems and
bead embellishments.



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Detail of illuminated letter
braided couched cording and
appliqué construction of book.



Detail of bird and vine leaves
embellished with embroidery



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