
March Artist Newsletter • Becka Rahn

1 message

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An Artist Newsletter
by Becka Rahn



Happy New Year! I'm sure you are thinking to yourself "Becka, it's nearly April. You are a little late for new years greetings." Which is completely true. But our house construction project is finally (nearly) wrapped up, I turned in a final report last week for a big grant project and I feel like I'm finally on the path to start new things! The piece you see up above is a tiny little peek at a series I am working on right now and it's a mashup of old and new loves. I have been gradually adding more hand embroidery to my body of work. I've loved embroidery since I was a kid, but teaching a weekly class has really pushed me to explore new stitches and given me an excuse to stitch on a regular basis. I've also taken a series of [boxmaking classes from MCBA](#) over the last year and found a new love in the precision and engineering that goes in to them. Although it might seem unrelated, it's not so different than sewing an elaborate velvet coat; it's just a smaller scale. This series is all about plans that go awry, detours, and circumstances outside of your control. Which has totally been my theme

for the last year. I'm embroidering on paper, making my own bookcloth from Spoonflower printed fabric and seeing where it leads me. What's your new love?

-- Becka

what's new?



Makers' Market
Sunday, April 23rd 11am-4pm
Darn Knit Anyway  Stillwater, MN

I'll be at [Darn Knit Anyway](#) on Sunday April 23 for their spring Makers Market. Stop by and say hello and check out their cool makers space.

classes



Online Class • A new session of my hand embroidery class starts April 13. Each Thursday at noon (Central) we spend an hour doodling with needle and thread. Beginners are absolutely welcome. It's a fun social group and a great way to improve your hand stitching skills. [All the details and registration here.](#)

**Cats & Dogs class at North
Suburban Center for the Arts
• In-Person Class**

Put Saturday April 22 on your calendar to come make an embroidered pet with me. [Registration will be open soon; check the NSCA calendar.](#)



**Coming up at Dakota County Libraries •
Online/Zoom Classes**

- May 16 Native Plants Notecards
- June 6 Opening an Etsy Shop
- June 13 Waterlily Box
- July 18 Loon Embroidered Art
- August 15 Tie Dye Toucan
- September 19 Bead Edge Basket

Registration for these should be open in April.
[Check the calendar for details.](#)

on the studio table



I have a really random assortment on the studio table this week.

Tools: Silicone Dog Treat Mold

I have a labrador with food allergies and we've just started him on a very restricted diet to try and get them better under control. That means baking his super allergy formula wet dog food into treats because he's not allowed to eat milkbones. [So I got this oven/dishwasher safe mold. You can personalize it with your dog's name.](#) Silly, yes. But it works great.

Home: Flor Carpet Tiles

We made a rug [from these carpet tiles](#) when my husband's office moved into our house and we like them so much we've gotten two more sets for our new space upstairs. They wear beautifully and they are infinitely customizable. We love them.

Notions: Osborne Needles

My embroidery class asked me yesterday about my favorite needles for embroidery and I realized I haven't shared those. I get these from [Cutex Sewing on Ebay. #562 Chenille Needles size 24.](#)



Every month I try to feature another small handmade business and this month I have to give a shout out to [Skapar Design](#) who were the team that did our upstairs remodel. Stanley loves his new window nook. We do not have enough good things to say about Nate and his team from Skapar. I haven't posted finished photos yet to my blog, but I did [write posts all through our construction adventure.](#) They were professional, detailed, and expert problem solvers. The subcontractors (especially tile, plumbing & electrical) were awesome. They did their best to keep the mess and the disruption to a minimum. Wait until you see our before and after.



We made this [parmesan crusted polenta with pesto](#) for dinner the other night and it was delicious. And really easy. This [creamy Genovese pesto sauce](#) is my favorite.

Joann Fabrics sent me an email all about their new [Ditto pattern projector](#) today. I like the idea but I don't love that it's a proprietary file format and you can only use their specific selection of patterns.

[Spoonflower recently launched a new Polartec fleece fabric](#). I have a sample and I can't wait to do some wash and sewing tests and write a post all about it. Coming soon.

[Adorable stop-motion wool animation](#) of the history of hand spinning.

A [podcast episode by Threads with Alex Beard](#) and his expert reproductions of Star Trek costumes.

[North Suburban Center for the Arts has a call open for art pieces that are monochromatic](#). What a fun theme to explore.

From Science Friday: [They've found a way to make eco-friendly glitter](#).

Did you know Alan Alda has a podcast? [I loved this episode about Chat GPT and new AI bots](#). He asked it to write a MASH scene and they perform it in the podcast.

The Craft Industry Alliance also [wrote an article about how to use ChatGPT for your creative business](#). I have actually used it to help write some class descriptions and it was a helpful starting point just to get past a blank page.

If you celebrate Easter with eggs, I thought this [embroidered eggs project by Betz White](#) was really cute. I love stitching on felt like this. My favorite felt shop, Benzie, [also has felt eggs you can get \(and many other shapes too\)](#).

My friend Kelly has launched a creativity coaching business called [CreativeDreamsCoaching](#). She's a lot of fun and has space for new clients.

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