

---

**May Artist Newsletter, Becka Rahn**

1 message

**Becka Rahn** <becka@beckarah.com>

Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:07 PM

Reply-To: becka@beckarah.com

To: beckarah@gmail.com



*An Artist Newsletter*  
by Becka Rahn



This last week, my parents spent an enviable vacation touring around England. Their mini schnauzer, Alice, stayed home with a friend, so I made a "Flat Alice" to accompany them on their trip. (If you aren't familiar with the [story of Flat Stanley](#), check that out here.) It was a silly little thing to do, but I didn't expect how absolutely delightful it would be to get a text each day with my little paper art at Westminster Abbey or visiting the bard at Avon or sitting in the sunshine at Stonehenge. It made

me laugh and the paper version of Alice made all kinds of new friends overseas. It is the perfect reminder that art doesn't always have to be deep or meaningful; it is just as valuable to be fun and playful.

My friend Ingrid and I (who are a couple of veteran artists) had a great conversation with an art student at the open studio we did together a couple of weekends ago. This student was struggling with what to do for her senior thesis project and being overwhelmed with choices and trying to find something that made a statement. And Ingrid very wisely asked: "What do you love?" "Lemons?", she answered, looking at us a little bit as though we were nuts. And we said **do it**. Make art about lemons. Don't overthink it; just figure out what it is you love about lemons and make that the statement, because when you get done making it, the story will be there. I don't know if she took our advice or not, but the next time you see a fantastic piece of lemon art I hope it makes you smile too.

-- Becka



I am thrilled to pieces that "Tribbulations" won an Honorable Mention Award for exceptional artistic effort and concept at the Monochrome exhibit at [North Suburban Center for the Arts](#).

"Tribbulations" is part of a Portmanteaus series about plans that go awry, timelines that slip, and projects that run into snags outside of one's control. The word portmanteau refers to a suitcase-like container or two words that have been joined together to form a combined meaning.

I love puns and wordplay in my work. Tribbulations is lined with faux fur and the title is a nod to a classic Star Trek episode with a furry plot twist. The choice to use a box shape leans in to the idea that every story has an internal or personal version and an external version that you tell to other people.

The pieces in this series are made in shades of pink, from coral to raspberry to plum. Red is often a color used to communicate a stop and the theme of these pieces is to talk about things that stop momentum from going forward. I used softer or analogous colors to red to sort of play with the idea that these ideas were not quite a hard stop or an end, but more the idea of things that were in the way of progress.

If you go see this in person, you can also see "Unintendetour", which is another piece in this series. *Monochrome* is open through June 25 at North Suburban Center for the Arts.

## classes

### Launching June 12: A Trio of Techniques for Designing your own Fabrics

I am delighted to launch my new on-demand online classes with a BRAND NEW class about designing fabrics. I've only ever done this one as an in-person/Zoom before. I just finished filming the videos and I am putting the finishing touches on everything. It will be open for new students **on June 12**.



**What's the class about?** It walks you step-by-step through three ways to make fabric designs using everyday materials. It's NOT a class about becoming a professional fabric designer or licensing collections or how to use Procreate. There are dozens of classes like that out there already. And not all of us want to follow that path, right? This class is about making things for yourself, for fun, for gifts, and to do something creative. If you want a sneak peek of what to expect, I have two FREE classes open now to introduce you to Spoonflower and Pixlr, which are two tools we will use. You can find those at my [At the Studio Table Classes Page](#).

## on the studio table





This week's studio table items helped write this newsletter.

**TREATS:** [Chimes Ginger Chews](#). I didn't used to love ginger but over the years it has really grown on me. I got some of these to try and they are yummy. Love the mango flavor too.

**LISTENING:** When we last updated a phone at our house it came with a free subscription to Apple Music. I didn't think I would use it, but I have discovered I love being to pull up anything I can think of to listen to. [Colcannon was a band we used to listen to in pubs in Boulder CO when we were in college](#). They have been a favorite for decades.

**TOOLS:** I have so many charger cables all over the studio, but [the ones by Anker are \\*the best\\*](#). We love the braided nylon version. We have never had to replace one; they are just great quality.

shop around the corner



We made these [Heritage Wheat Crepes from Sunrise Flour Mills](#) for dinner last night and they were out of this world. We stuffed ours with sauteed mushrooms and some port salut cheese. Definitely going to do that again.

Sunrise Flour Mills is local to me and I love to be able to support local growers. Their oat cereal and pancake mix are also favorites at our house!



I took a weaving class once and [finished my scarf like this](#), but it wasn't nearly as much fun just doing it in my own sink.

Did you know that the National Park Service [has an official crocheted walleye pattern](#)? It's super fun and I love the note about scale at the end of the pattern.

[A great review from a costuming professor about "The Handwear Handbook: Make Gloves, Cuffs & Vambraces for Cosplay & Beyond"](#). This looks fabulous and I would love to spend a few hours with a copy.

A cool fun fact from local sewing shop Treadle Yard Goods [all about cartridge pleats](#) with a link to a tutorial. Their sample looks awesome!

I always love a cool combination of embroidery and knits. [This Expound hat by Hunter Hammerson is really lovely](#). That's such a great use of the stitch.

More fun embroidery news: [Queen Camilla's Rescue Dogs Were Embroidered on Her Coronation Gown](#) and also [Princess Kate's Embroidered Leaf headpiece](#) was gorgeous.

If you are interested in Spoonflower fabrics, they have a [new redesigned Sample Pack](#) that sounds like they've made some interesting improvements. I need to order one.

This is a really [handy guide to different kinds of sewing needles by embroiderer Sue Spargo](#). I like chenille needles for almost everything; they are my favorites.

Here's a [really good tutorial for how to do shirring on your sewing machine](#), which is evidently very trendy right now. (I really love that pink dress in the photos.)

I have taken several box making classes from Minneapolis artist Erin Maurelli (she's a great teacher) but I think it's always fun to learn from different people. I am really [tempted by this pencil box class from British artist Yvette Jah](#), just to get a different perspective on the techniques.

Becka Rahn

Becka Rahn

1714 LINCOLN ST NE, MINNEAPOLIS, 55413

[Unsubscribe](#)

