
June Artist Newsletter • Becka Rahn, Artist

2 messages

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Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 4:04 PM

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An Artist Newsletter
by Becka Rahn



Now that we are halfway through 2023, I've decided that my theme for the year is "plans that change". Anybody else having a year like that? Our construction project took longer than we hoped. I have had several projects or shows that got indefinitely tabled or completely cancelled. Due to one technical glitch after another I switched my class hosting, website hosting, email hosting, got a new phone, new internet service and a new computer. I've been in a constant state of updating, fixing, moving and redoing. Kind of like that poor elephant up above, which was a shiny new class sample last week and an unintended dog toy last night when some Labrador was bored. Remaking this one has been added to next week's to-do list.

Somehow all of this backtracking and rethinking has pushed me into trying some new things. Maybe just to feel like I am getting out of that rut. I applied and have been accepted to start teaching classes on Skillshare. So you'll start seeing me there next month; I'm so excited. I've put together some new classes, which you'll see below. What are you doing to get out of your rut? Anything new that's inspiring you these days? (How about one of those classes I mentioned?)

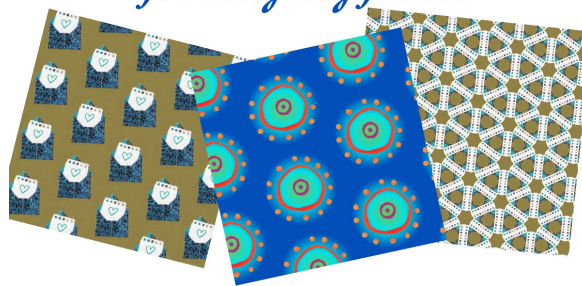
-- Becka

what's new?



[Go to Trinket Box Class](#)

A TRIO *of* TECHNIQUES *for designing fabrics*



[Go to Trio Class](#)

NEW ONLINE CLASSES - On demand, work at your own pace

I can't even tell you how thrilled I am so be able to announce that I have TWO new online classes available on my website. After many hiccups, I finally have my on-demand class section up and running. You can take these at your own pace, any time, even wearing your pajamas. Both classes have more than an hour of full captioned video, downloads, links and more.

- The **Trinket Box** class is a project that was sold out the last time I taught it via Zoom. You can choose to make a waterlily or sunflower box and learn two different embroidery stitches. The project takes about 2 hours.
- **A Trio of Techniques** is an intro to fabric design class using low-cost and easily accessible tools to make some fun mixed media designs. Great for dabbling your toes in the world of fabric design.

classes



Embroidered Parrot Sampler Class

Starts July 13. Thursdays at Noon (CDT).

Spend an hour each week stitching in this fun hand embroidery sampler class, **held online via Zoom**. Each week, you will learn a new stitch and complete a section of the parrots design. The 8 inch parrots panel was designed by Becca and is printed on 100% cotton fabric. A pre-washed panel is included in your class fee and will be mailed to you after you register. You provide the rest of the materials and tools for class. Beginners are enthusiastically welcomed; no embroidery experience is necessary.

[See more about the Parrot Embroidery Sampler Class](#)

shop





Surprise Secret Sale in my Etsy shop, just for newsletter subscribers.

I've had a couple of big events that have been cancelled for various reasons lately and I decided that rather than be sad about that I would have a little event of my own. Use coupon code LEMONADE at [beckarah.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/beckarah) and get 15% off everything through July 6th.

And PS: thanks for being a subscriber. You are all the best.

on the studio table





I've got lots of new cool tools on the studio table this week.

Notions: [Pilot Frixion Pens](#) erase with heat. So you can draw out a shape to embroider and erase it with a hairdryer. I had heard about these but never tried them until this week. Wow!

Tools: Cherry wood needle case and stiletto point from [Sistermaide.etsy.com](#). These popped up in my feed randomly and I had to get some. These feel lovely and the shop makes all kinds of different tools in different woods.

Drawing: [Papermate Handwriting pencils](#). I love these for sketching! It's a mechanical pencil but with a super thick lead.

shop around the corner



If you are in the Twin Cities metro area, you should know about the NE Farmers Market. (Fun fact: I've been going almost since it started. I was a vendor and sold puppets there one season in probably 2002?)

It's the perfect size: lots of local produce, food trucks, a few craft vendors. We've seen a self-serve dog wash and an on-site knife sharpener. Last week we got rhubarb, peas, cucumbers, lettuce, and mint.

St. Boniface Church Parking Lot
629 NE 2nd St NE



My dad texted this to me this morning: "[I Asked AI To Turn Fast Food Brands Into Wedding Dresses, And Here's What It Came Up With](#)". It made us both laugh.

Did you know: 'Seersucker' comes from Persian 'shīr o shikar' (milk and sugar). The name alludes to the smooth (milk) and rough (sugar) texture of the fabric.

Cool! [Minnesota carpenter helps rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral roof — with medieval-era skills](#) via MPR

Via Knitty.com: [Bloomberg News has covered the Stitches bankruptcy and how it's affecting small business](#). Stitches was a huge knitting convention that cancelled abruptly without paying teachers or refunding vendors. So sad.

An interesting [interview with master embroiderer Tracy Franklin](#). The goldwork sampler they show is beautiful.

I loved this thread from the [Voyageurs Wolf Project](#) about [how they tag the wolves that they study](#). They have a really ingenious code system that's a great solution to several problems.

I wrote a post on my blog about [my favorite embroidery threads: Eleganza Perle Cotton and Kreinik Very Fine Braid](#).

[This video about a thorn tool is SO cool](#). From Sally Pointer "Working from a number of surviving early Neolithic tools from the circum-Alpine Neolithic pile dwelling villages, I'm recreating and testing a textile processing toolkit as part of my MSc in Experimental Archaeology final dissertation. "

I also updated my website to include the new series of paper boxes that I am making with embroidered lokta paper. [Look for the Boxes & Books tab](#). They go with my theme of the year.

I made this [Rhubarb Bread recipe](#) this past weekend and its so so good. Mine looked as nice as the picture in the recipe. We also made [these Broccoli Cheese soufles](#) and they were delicious.

Becka Rahn

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