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**July Artist newsletter • Becka Rahn, artist**

1 message

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*An Artist Newsletter*  
by Becka Rahn



Part of being an artist is learning to be ok with the fact that you get "We regret to inform you that your artwork has not been selected..." letters at least three times as often as you get congratulations. The piece up above is called *Growversight* and it's part of a series I am working on about detours and plans that go awry. The titles are all portmanteaus or words put together to make a new word.

I submitted *Growversight* for the MN State Fair Fine Arts jury but it was not accepted. It's a very competitive show. The number of "textiles/fibers" entries that they accept is based on the number that are entered. So if only 5% of the total entries are in the fiber category, only 5% of the final show will be fiber pieces. It's a different juror every year so you never know what they will select. This is entirely made from paper and thread (and a little wire) so it fits in the fibers category, since there's no section for paper or book arts. Should I have called it sculpture? The juror only sees the photos and none of the story, so maybe they didn't get it. Always things to wonder...

I can't wait to see what pieces did get juried in to the Fine Arts show. Did you get a regrets letter too? Maybe the next piece in my series will be about the dreaded "regrets letter". What should I title that

one?

## what's new?



### Trailblazing an art business

I'll be teaching two classes and presenting a keynote at the Weavers Federation Conference in October. Federation is an annual fall weekend retreat open to all fiber enthusiasts providing lodging, meals, keynote speaker, classes, and so much more! I'll also have some of my kits and notions bags along for sale. It's my first time attending, but it sounds like a lot of fun.

[Registration is open now if you'd like to join us!](#)

## classes



I'm also teaching two classes for Handweavers Guild of America online conference for Spinning & Weaving Week in October. I'm doing a tech class about how to set up to teach live classes online and a hand embroidered embellishments class.

[Registration is open now.](#)

I'm teaching a ledger book and embroidered elephant class for the ArtWaves Online Conference in November. Registration opens for that next week. This is also a brand new event for me and it sounds like a cool one. There are lots of painting, drawing and beadwork classes too. [You can check out a VIP sneak peek of the catalog here.](#)

**ArtWaves** LIVE ONLINE FALL SHOW

November 1-5, 2023

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join us for an amazing interactive experience with creative art classes, demonstrations, and special event Kick-Off Party!

[www.c2cevents.com](http://www.c2cevents.com)



Also for fans of my classes at Dakota County Libraries, we've just added more classes for the fall so keep an eye on their website!

- Embroidered Octopus • October 17
- Etsy Shop Behind the Scenes • October 24
- Coffee Cup Pouch • November 14
- Paper Window Stars • December 12
- Cross Stitch • January 16
- Origami Dogs • February 20

## on the blog



I wrote about a fun project using a leftover swatch of Spoonflower's peel and stick wallpaper: a coptic bound sketchbook.

>> [Read more on my blog.](#)

## on the studio table





An odd trio of things on the studio table this week:

**Tools:** [Curved Bookbinding Needles by Lineco](#). I got these after watching a YouTube tutorial on coptic books and I don't know why I haven't tried them before.

**Tools:** I got a new laptop and the camera is great but it cannot cope with the green background I have in my studio. It tried to color correct and makes me look like a lobster! Not good. So I got this [PowerConf c200 webcam by Anker](#) to see if I could get a little more control over the video color. It's been GREAT and it was not expensive.

**Coming soon:** I am working on the much requested cat version of my [Puppy with a Sweater](#) ornament kit.

shop around the corner



Check out the coaster under that cup. It's from [FeltPlanet on Etsy](#) and it's made from wool felt. I have coasters, a big table runner and square placemats all from this shop. Can you tell I'm a fan? They clean easily with cold water, come in so many colors, and I love that they protect my table from heat and drips too.

The shop is located in Bethlehem, PA, which isn't exactly local to me but it's where my inlaws grew up, so I think that counts.



Just look at all the shapes [these tiny pin looms](#) come in from TurtleLoom. What fun!

From Science Friday: [How Star Trek Incorporates Real-Life Science](#). Astrophysicist Dr. Erin Macdonald talks about consulting on the famous series and the real (and fictional) science on screen. I always love some new Star Trek Trivia.

I'm a big Tony Bennett fan because of his music, but did you know he was also an artist? He [sketched a tattoo for Lady Gaga](#) and [here's a great article showing some of his paintings](#). I listened to both of the [albums that he made with Lady Gaga](#) a lot in the last week. They are so good.

I LOVED this article from NPR: [We ask 3 Broadway photographers: How do you turn a live show into a still image?](#)

This [micro-tutorial for matchbook style notebooks](#) popped up in my Instagram feed yesterday and I made 4 with scraps sitting on my studio table. Fun!

I also stumbled across this [demonstration of a loop start for cross stitch](#) and I had never seen that technique before. I am going to have to try it for class that I am teaching in January!

I haven't yet tried making this recipe for [Eggs Jeanette](#), but it's on my list. We love eggs in nearly any form and these are just unusual enough that I have to try it once!

We also tried [this Pad Thai recipe](#) this week and it turned out great. We made a trip to the Asian grocery near us for dried shrimp and good rice noodles. It looks like a lot of odd ingredients (we couldn't find the dried radish, subbed brown sugar for the palm sugar) but it went together fast and it was yummy.

I have two friends with new books out in the last few weeks. [Pieces and Parts](#) by Annmarie Boyle, which is the last in her Storyhill Musicians series. I read it in a single evening (and stayed up way past my bedtime.) My friend Bowen Gillings has written [Exceptionals](#). "Lone wolf federal agent Larry Lawson must join forces with his jilted, black belt ex-fiancé and a misfit bunch of college campus oddballs to save a young woman with extraordinary abilities from clandestine kidnappers." That's next in my queue.

If you are on Threads, I am [@beckarahn](#) there. I am not really sure if I like it or it's just one more thing to keep track of, but for now I'm there.

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