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**September Artist Newsletter • Becka Rahn, teaching artist**

1 message

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Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 11:21 AM

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*An Artist Newsletter*  
by Becka Rahn



In a few days, I am giving a keynote talk at a fiber arts conference about my artistic/art business journey. Thanks to a night of insomnia where I was feeling creative, I have it mostly written. One of the recurring themes I noticed when I was deciding what to talk about was "things go sideways and then I find a creative solution". In other words: problem solving. I did a guest speaking gig for a highschool arts class recently and the teacher and I talked about the important skills they don't emphasize when you are "studying" to have a career in the arts. It turns out that problem solving has been the skill I use most consistently, way more often than the tempura paint techniques I learned in my art teaching practicum class. Although I would love a quiet month where nothing on my website

breaks and no events get cancelled, I know that problems are sometimes the push I need to try something new or look at it in a different way. I've got a task list as long as my hand of things to solve today and maybe something there will open up a path I haven't thought about before. That makes it kind of exciting, don't you think?

-- Becka

## what's new?



### **Snowflakes are in the air!**

Ok maybe it's too early to say that, but I do have TWO classes making hand embroidered snowflakes! I had several requests so I decided to make this a hybrid class. **You can choose the version that works best for your schedule.**

[LIVE ZOOM version happens on Thursdays at Noon Central.](#)

[ON DEMAND pre-recorded version is anytime you want to do it.](#)

Same project, same lesson plan. So if you miss a live class, you'll have access to the recordings too.

Those links above will take you to a description with all of the details. I'd love to have you join me in any format that works for you. These snowflakes are so pretty! Registration deadline is October 4, so don't wait.

## classes

### **Scrooge Sew-Along**

I'm doing another sew-along with one of [mmmcrafts](#) amazing

[patterns: Ebenezer Scrooge](#). You purchase the pattern from her shop and then join us for an hour a week on Zoom to stitch these delightfully grouchy ornaments. All the details are on my website. Starts October 31.

BAH HUMBUG!



**I've got more classes coming up very soon!**

- *Hand Embroidered Embellishments* and *Teaching a Zoom Class* with the HGA Spinning & Weaving Week
- *Embroidered Elephant* and *Ledger Book* with Arts Waves Online Conference
- *Embroidered Embellishments* and a keynote at the Weavers Federation Conference
- Dakota County Libraries classes always fill up fast, but [THERE'S STILL ROOM in the Etsy shop class!](#)

[Visit my class calendar page for all the details and links to register.](#)

And don't forget, I am [teaching on Skillshare!](#) My next class is launching in October and I'll have some free passes in the next newsletter.



Here's a hint about that next class --->



on the blog



**Rejections are part of the story.**

This piece of art had an adventure at a local gallery recently and it might have grown a little. Read my blog post about the piece called *Growversight* and how it has now been many times rejected and has started to take on a life of its own.

[>> Read More](#)

on the studio table





I've been so busy that the studio table is chaos this month. A proper mess.

**Adornments.** I often open the mail at the table and so this pair of earrings hasn't made it to the jewelry box yet, but I really enjoy looking at them. [Handpainted ceramic by Rachel Vitko.](#)

**Treats.** A friend brought me some [Waterloo Spiced Apple](#) sparkling water to try. I am NOT a fan of apple flavored things normally, but I love this one.

**Notions.** I needed to attach a label to one of my paper covered boxes, but masking tape was too tacky and damaged the paper, so I tried some [Scotch Removable Tape](#). It's got adhesive like a post it note and it was just what I needed.



My local shop feature this month is [Muse2320 Fiber Co](#) in Hastings, MN. Sara was my next door booth neighbor at the recent Yarnover Marketplace and she was absolutely a delight. Her "Kitchen Sink" colorway was flying out the door, but I fell in love with this one called "Florence". It's even more shiny copper colored in person. Her yarn bases are so incredibly soft, this is going to make the nicest winter hat.



links you'll love



A fun [video with a tour of Pendleton Woolen Mills](#).

Love this tutorial for [how to make medieval cloth buttons](#). I have to try this sometime!

Some great science geekery: [Perfectly Timed Photo Shows Singing Blackbird Creating Vortex Rings with His Breath](#)

I cannot wait to get my hands on a copy of this book: [In the latest children's book from mother-daughter duo Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton, a village subdued by a mysterious purple fog finds joy again by serenading an audience of appreciative houseplants.](#)

I try not to link to things behind a paywall, but this is a great read if you have a NYT subscription (and somehow missed it). [Fiber Art Is Finally Being Taken Seriously](#)

I like a good puzzle. Have you discovered the [NYT Connections](#) game? How about the drawing game [Squiggle Drop](#) on Apple Arcade?

[A cool 1951 BBC newsreel about "The Linen Harvest"](#) called the "aristocrat of all textiles".

How about a [quick demonstration of making a cattail hat](#)? This actually looks kind of fun.

[These knit beaded bracelets are really cute](#). The post is all in Russian, but if you have some basic knitting skills you can totally follow along and see how it works.

[Tiny origami gift boxes from a sheet of pretty paper](#). What's not to love?

I've got an intolerance/allergy to potatoes, so I am always on the lookout for recipes that can take the place of fries. These [Crispy Parmesan Carrot Sticks](#) look like they could be great. They are on my list to try.

My friend Doreen is in love with this very cool elongated stitch Passiflore sweater by Méline Hami. For good reason. [Payhip](#) or [Ravelry](#) links.

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