



An Artist Newsletter

by Becca Rahn



I'm not usually the kind of person who has a theme for the new year, but I decided to try something different this year. I have made myself a year-long art business plan and my mantra for the year is "**Use what you have. Do it better.**" Which means revisiting some things, like making some new fabric designs. I took a break from designing fabrics last year, which I talk about in the blog post I mention below. But this year, I'm back to participating in the Spoonflower design challenges and <gasp> [designing things like the goldfish collection above, just for fun](#). I reached out to some art partners that I haven't worked with since before the pandemic. I started re-writing some sections of my website. I've dusted off and am teaching some art-business skills classes again. So far, I am really loving this new plan which kind of gives me permission to not have to always do something new but just find ways to do it better and look at some things (like my much neglected Pinterest account) with fresh eyes.

Did you give yourself a theme for the new year? Tell me about yours!

-- Becca

what's new?



This piece called "Any Day But Tuesday" is on exhibit at [North Suburban Center for the Arts](#) in *Pop Goes the Easel*.

It's entirely made from embroidered paper (except for the working clock). You can see more photos and read about it on my blog at my newly redesigned [Gallery Page](#).

A quiet leap: Transitioning to new media in my art practice

If you've noticed a lot more paper around here these days, it's not because I've lost my love of fabric, but I have been exploring some new art forms. I wrote about my "quiet leap" on my blog and how I'm trying out some new things.

[Read more here at my blog.](#)



classes



Craft Modern Notebooks: Tear, Bind & Stitch with Embroidered & Recycled Papers

I've got a brand new class up at Skillshare! In this class you get to try two of my favorite things: hand embroidery and some hand stitched book binding. These notebooks are made to be personalized, so you can fill them with paper for drawing, listmaking, or whatever makes the handiest notebook for you. [Check out all the details here.](#)

As always, I like to try and make my classes as accessible as possible so if you want to check out the class but you don't have a Skillshare membership, I have made [3 "free pass" links available through this link](#) and the first people to claim them can check out the class for free. (And if you can leave a comment or interact in anyway while you are there, it is a huge algorithm-friendly gift for me.)

I am also teaching a HUGE slate of classes for Dakota County Libraries this spring.

They've opened up TWO sessions of each class so hopefully that will make it easier for those of you that have had trouble getting in because they are always full!

- Feb: Origami Dogs
- Mar: Felted Cats
- Apr: Modern Blackwork Embroidery
- May: Folk Art Felt Blackbird
- June: Corded Silk Jewelry
- July: Embroidered Ledger Books
- Aug: Origami Dresses

AND I am doing a small business series in March & April with classes about Photography, Etsy, Print On Demand and Spoonflower. [Check Dakota County Libraries website for all of the details and registration links.](#)

on the studio table



On the studio table this week.

Tools: If you have a phone that can use a wireless charger, we always have great luck with Anker brand electronics. [I got this one for my bookshelf next to my desk](#) and it's so much handier than a cord that gets tangled in everything in the studio.

Notions: I [added these 2 inch \(and also 1 inch\)](#) hoops to my Etsy shop for finishing your embroidery and cross stitch projects.

Paper: If you want some cheerful origami paper for a project, I got this [rainbow assortment for my next class](#) and it is so cheerful and fun. It's double sided; pattern on one and solid on the other. I like the Tuttle brand paper a lot.

get in the game 



I just discovered a new game this week that I have been having fun with. I have to admit I haven't yet played the dice & paper version because I found [the iOS game on my iPad](#) first. It's called [Roll Player](#) and although it sounds like something from DnD and does involve dice, it's really a little more like a puzzle. If you've ever played Yahtzee or That's So Clever, it's like a more complex version of that, but with some fantasy flavor. I've been enjoying it as a solo (playing to beat my high score) which is fun too.

links you'll love 

[Wooly Wormhead has a new short row colorwork book](#) that is up for pre-order now (April) that looks amazing. I have never knit one of her patterns, but I admire her colorwork hats greatly.

While we're talking about knitting, [here's an article about ADHD & knitting strategies](#), which was an interesting read.

Did you know that [Spoonflower has a new online proofing tool](#) and if you want to sell your designs, you can use the tool (and no longer need to order a physical proof). It's a GREAT tool and I've found it very handy catching little things I missed in my designs. I've got it on my list to make a tutorial soon.

If you are in the Twin Cities area, go [see Ironbound by Frank Theater](#) (at the Gremlin Theater space). A friend is in the show, so we went last weekend and it was so so good.

"Extreme neatness in design is not necessarily a good thing artistically." I really like Rebecca Crompton's embroidery work in this [Facebook post from the V&A Museum](#).

I also think this ["cars with headlights" series by artist Kiko Miyares](#) is really fun. (Scroll down in the feed to find them.)

I have to try this out this summer: [papermaking with a splatter screen and grated crayons](#). The resulting paper is SO cool. I want some!

Love this [really simple running stitch variation](#) to make a fancy edged valentine.

[This crafter-turned-engineer from Oxfordshire is charming](#). I love how she explains how she got to do what she does.

[We loved this vegan korma recipe!](#) I can't eat tomatoes, so I subbed a teaspoon of sumac for the tomato paste to give it a little tartness. I added cauliflower & carrots. It was total comfort food.



And Stanley says hi.

Becka Rahn

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