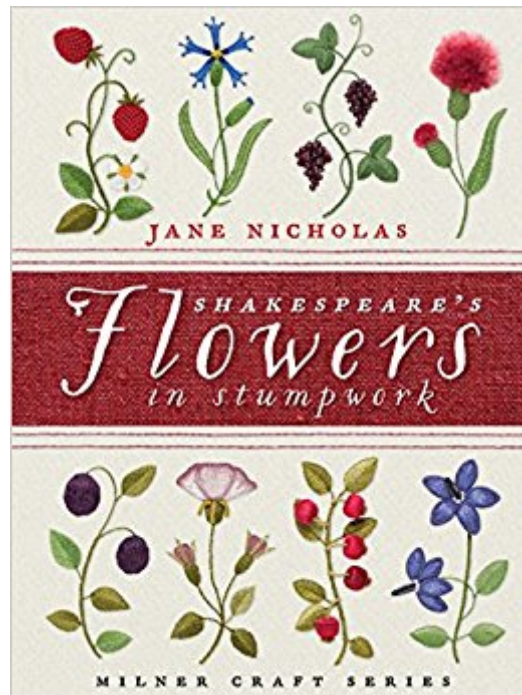




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Shakespeare's Flowers In Stumpwork (Milner Craft Series)



Synopsis

In 1598, Lady Anne Clifford wrote a letter to her father that featured a beautifully painted border. Inspired by that Shakespearian-era design, Jane Nicholas has created her own embroidery, stitched on ivory silk satin in stumpwork. It showcases 14 assorted flowers and fruits popular at the time, from the Apothecary rose, borage, heartsease, and periwinkle to redcurrants, barberries, plums, and strawberries. Use the border to surround a mirror or enclose a special photograph, monogram, or treasured memento.Â Â

Book Information

Series: Milner Craft Series

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Sally Milner Publishing (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1863514813

ISBN-13: 978-1863514811

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.8 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #119,173 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 inÂ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Embroidery

Customer Reviews

October 2015 The beautifully painted border of a letter written by Lady Anne Clifford to her father in 1598; the time of Elizabeth I and Shakespeare inspired Jane Nicholas in the creation of her own stunning stumpwork and embroidery. The projects in this book showcase many of the flowers and fruits popular at the time, from the apothecary rose, to periwinkle and strawberries. Lavishly illustrated in colour, with detailed step-by-step instructions and quotes from the Bard himself, this stunning book will make a delightful edition to any bookshelf if anyone interested in textured and dimensional embroidery. Sewing World July 2015 The flowers featured in this book grew in Shakespeare's time. The chosen flowers are ones that most people will be familiar with. The work includes borders, samplers and single flowers. Detailed step-by-step instructions together with every possible detail, make this book a must for stumpwork enthusiasts. This is also a lovely book just to look at. There are extracts from Shakespeare's work accompanied by beautiful illustrations, for example one of Redoute's roses. There is a short historical background too. Karen Platt

Yarnsandfabrics.co.uk/crafts If you love stumpwork embroidery, if you love flowers, and if you have a bit of a penchant for historical embroidery, literature, poetry... then you'll definitely want to know about Jane Nicholas's new stumpwork book, Shakespeare's Flowers in Stumpwork, which is due out soon, soon, soon! I'm so excited about this book! And on so many levels. Stumpwork. Flowers. History. Literature. Poetry. Shakespeare. I'm a sucker for all of the above. But really, it's Jane's exquisite artistry with the needle that seals them all up into such an appealing package. When daisies pied and violets blue And lady-smocks all silver-white And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue Do paint the meadows with delight... Shakespeare's poetry is jam-packed with references to flowers. The lines above from Love's Labours Lost are a favorite. They're so pretty, despite the rest of the song. I've always wanted to illuminate them. Paint them. Stitch them. Or do something with them. And I'm so glad that Jane has done that with stumpwork. (Especially because I have no idea what cuckoo-buds are. I think he made the name up - he was prone to doing things like that.) I haven't seen the book yet - I'm waiting eagerly for it - but I promise that as soon as it's in my grimy little paws, I'll work up a detailed review for you. Based on Jane's other books, though (I have them all), I have no doubt this book will be exquisite.

The Contents of Shakespeare's Flowers

Shakespeare's Flowers in Stumpwork is divided into five sections. Here are the content details:

Part 1: A border of Shakespeare's flowers, apothecary rose, barberries, bellflower, borage, cornflower, gillyflower, grapevine, heartsease, knapweed, periwinkle plum, redcurrants, strawberry, and sweet briar.

Part 2: Shakespeare's Flowers: The Samplers

Sampler One: Sweet Briar, Grapevine, Heartsease and Strawberries

Sampler Two: Apothecary Rose, Borage, Cornflower and Redcurrants

Sampler Three: Gillyflower, Periwinkle, Plums and Barberries

Part 3: Elizabethan Flower Panel, bluebell, crab apple, honeysuckle, Lancaster rose, pea pod and primrose

Part 4: Garland of Spring Flowers, English daisy, Forget-me-nots, wild pansies and snowdrops

Part 5: Techniques, equipment, stitch glossary, framing up with hoops or frames, working with wire, materials and equipment

What I've found with every one of Jane's books is that they're not just embroidery books. Ok, they are embroidery books. But they're So Much More! They're works of art on their own. They're dream books. They're sources of inspiration. They're picture books, coffee table books, pleasure books. You can just flip them through and they make you happy! They're also technically and precisely well written. But they're not usually heavy on detailed, instructional images, so if you're new to stumpwork all around, you might start a little lighter, with some of the recommendations below.

Recommendations for Beginners

If you are an absolute beginner to stumpwork, Shakespeare's Flowers, like several of Jane's other books, might not be the place to start. Don't get me wrong, though. If you're already pretty familiar with surface embroidery and comfortable with stitching in general, and you're a

determined beginner in stumpwork, I think you can handle Jane's books. But if you're a beginner in embroidery in general and you've never done stumpwork, I'd recommend Stumpwork Flowers by Sachiko Morimoto for your first foray into embroidering stumpwork flowers. The projects in that book are small, simple projects that will help you achieve good results. I'd also recommend investing in the RSN Essential Stitch Guide to Stumpwork, to use as a handy reference. see full review at www.needlenthread.com

Jane Nicholas has been researching and working in the field of embroidery for over 20 years. Specializing in stumpwork and goldwork embroidery, she has written seven books and has contributed widely to journals and magazines on the subject. In 1999 Jane was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to further her studies in stumpwork in the United Kingdom and in 2005 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM), for her "services to hand embroidery as an artist, teacher and author." She teaches widely for Embroiderers' Guilds and businesses in Australia, New Zealand, and the US, and continues to research and develop new techniques—particularly in stumpwork.

Having a BA in English, I delight in Shakespeare. I love everything about Tudor--particularly Elizabethan--history. I love doing embroidery and studying the history of needlework. I may want to venture into stumpwork. My husband is from England so we visit the castles and cathedrals and, especially, the Victoria & Albert Museum to see the insanely gorgeous embroidered pieces. The earliest stitch-signed and-dated embroidery sampler in English is the Jane Bostocke sampler of 1598, right smack-dab in the middle of the time-frame of this book. I held this historic piece in my hands in the Textiles Department of the V&A and almost cried with joy. (Ok...I did cry.) There is something about 3-D embroidery based on flowers of 5 centuries ago that makes them especially beautiful. If you like embroidery with Elizabethan designs but a little less difficult than stumpwork, make SURE to read: Exploring Elizabethan Embroidery (Elizabethan needlework). I really appreciate Jane Nicholas for doing the research and analysis it took to make this book. She has gone beyond exclusively Shakespeare to other contemporary Elizabethan and early Stuart contemporary writings, art work and drawings such as the 1618 plan for the standard gardens of a great house. Even though I've visited such places in England, I didn't realize that they were planned from the beginning to have different sections. I appreciate just the little fact that Elizabeth I's favorite flower is the pansy except...you really have to do a lot of digging in the book to find this out: it's in the chapter entitled "Heartsease" beginning on page 82. This is the wild pansy or Viola tricolor also known as

Love-in-idleness and Johnny-jump-up. There is no index so you literally need to read the whole book unless you know what flower the Heartsease is. The story is great though: A Midsummer Night's Dream has Oberon referring to the magical and medicinal qualities of the Love-in-idleness flower which turned from white to violet and became a love potion for Cupid's arrow. "Heartsease" also refers to the flower being ascribed to helping heart problems by boiling the petals and drinking a glass-full every morning. Jane Nicholas is already the foremost author on stumpwork; in fact, she has authored the most books on this technique of embroidery; these are only a few: Stumpwork Medieval Flora (Milner Craft Series) Stumpwork Embroidery Designs and Projects (Milner Craft) The Complete Book of Stumpwork Embroidery (Milner Craft Series) Stumpwork Embroidery: A Collection Of Fruits, Flowers & Insects For Contemporary Raised Embroidery. So she knows what she's talking about. However...like the other reviewer...I think her drawings are a little too small; and her directions are not always clear. For example, in the chapter entitled Techniques, Equipment & Stitch Glossary, the very first step in "Mounting Fabrics into an Embroidery Hoop" is on page 237. "1. Place the main (background) fabric on top of the backing fabric[,] then place both fabrics over the inner ring of the hoop...." I need 2 pieces of fabric? How come no picture or diagram? I hike back to the introductory chapter "Overall Requirements" on page 24 and read about background and backing fabric but that's it: no diagrams or discussion how to fasten or even whether to sew these two layers together. This is especially confusing since most stumpwork is either raised--sometimes with padding--or has an additional layer of embroidered wire sewn on. This is not a beginner's book. If it were meant to be one, I would give this book only 3 stars. Because you can rely on any of these books, in addition to the author's other books, I can heartily recommend this book for its beauty, authenticity of design and nice presentation. These 3 books are in Ms. Nicholas's own Bibliography: Samplers and Stitches: A Handbook of the Embroiderer's Art The Stitches of Creative Embroidery Mary Thomas's Dictionary of Embroidery Stitches. For more info on basic embroidery techniques, you can consult: Stitch Sampler: The Ultimate Visual Dictionary to Over 200 Classic Stitches.

This is another of Jane Nicholas's amazing books. I think she has the best instructions of any needlework author out there. When I'm using her books I never have any questions that are not answered in a manner that even a beginner can not understand. I have a vast needlework library that I have been collecting for 50 years and hers are still my favorites.

This book is beautifully written with clear patterns and explanations about the source of the choice

of flowers, the reference to the plays is particularly fun. The patterns and stitches range from projects beginners will enjoy to things even an experienced person will find challenging. I paired this book with Helen M. Steven's Embroiderer's Countryside, who has a pattern for bindweed with trumpet shaped flowers. I was able adapt that pattern to fit the scale of the pattern for honeysuckle in this book to add yet another flower to the sampler suggested here. This is the best most accessible book of Elizabethan patterns I've seen.

I purchased this volume because I already owned the author's other titles on stumpwork. The illustrations and instructions are clear, the photos are exactly what I expected, and I'm pleased to add this to my bookshelf even if I may never create a plant specimen from Shakespeare's era.

Jane's books are top class. This one is a favorite. so much care and research into her work. She also is one of the best stitching teachers out there. Simply the best. I admire Jane Nicholas very much.

Jane Nicholas has the nicest books. The color and photographs are exceptional. This would be a nice book to add to your collection.

This is a beautiful book not necessarily for beginners but worth having in your library.

A beautiful and scholarly work by this amazing designer. I have taken classes from Jane and all her books reflect her wonderful teaching skills.

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