*Caroline Allen at “neadal & fred”*

Silk Flower Garden

A lovely opportunity to play with the gorgeous colours and textures of silk. We will be

shredding and ripping pieces, to build up a unique flower garden. A mixture of machining,

hand embroidery and beading will complement the final look. You can further embellish with

insects and other elements, to complete your garden. Suitable for novice free- machiners,

who would like to build on their skills, or can be completed with pattern stitches for those

who prefer not to drop their feed dogs.

MATERIALS

Silk for background, approx. 13” x 20”

Calico/Cotton backing, approx. 13” x 20”

6 x silk, approx. 3” x 6 “ each in different colours for flowers

1 x 3” x 20” silk, to twist for stems, and cut petals

2 x 5”x 8” silk in sky blues

2 x 5”x 8” silk in grass greens

15” Sari waste (approx.) to twist into a braid for stems

2m x 3-ply twist to match/coordinate one of the shades of your petal silk

10” piece DMC memory wire, in 3 colours if possible

10” x 1mm piece coloured craft wire, or similar

20” pieces each of gold + copper rococo thread

Sequins and beads to embellish work – I used green

Machine threads – I used greens, blues, and black/navy

Cotton Perle - in 2 colours for hand embroidery

EQUIPMENT

Thread wax/conditioner

Needles – for beading, hand embroidery and free machining

Canvass frame – I recycled an 8” x 15”, if you have a different sized one in mind then adjust the background

silk and calico/cotton to suit

Drawing pins – to stretch the piece over your frame

Sewing machine- in good working order

INSTRUCTIONS

1.Iron all your fabrics/silks. Place the foundation silk over your calico backing

2.Tear up your sky blue and grass green silks, into roughly 1” strips; place onto foundation silk, leaving some

of the background exposed, and not trimming off any of the frayed edges, and gathering up any lose

threads, as these will be added in the next step, building the overall effect

3.Lay any loose sky blue threads over the sky strips, to create some texture, and loosely free machine down,

using a coordinated machine thread

4.Repeat for the grass green threads, loosely free machine these elements down too

5.Now start cutting up your flower silks into various shapes, using the guide provided, or creating your own

flowers for a truly unique piece. I like to work with odd numbers, so 1,3 or 5

6.Now twist some sari waste lengths, and pass under the needle on a zigzag setting. These can be used to

create stems, I left enough at the top to open out as petals too

7.Hand embroider some some-fern like patterns, using fly stitch, add some French knots, beads, sequins,

and any other embellishments that you feel will enhance your silk flower garden.

8.Coil some DMC memory wire, or similar and hand stitch down, to add an interesting twist to your garden

9. Finally, couch down some rococo braid in the sky. This piece can either be stretched over canvass, as I did,

or finished in any way to suit your use. e.g. cushion, book cover, framed wall quilt etc