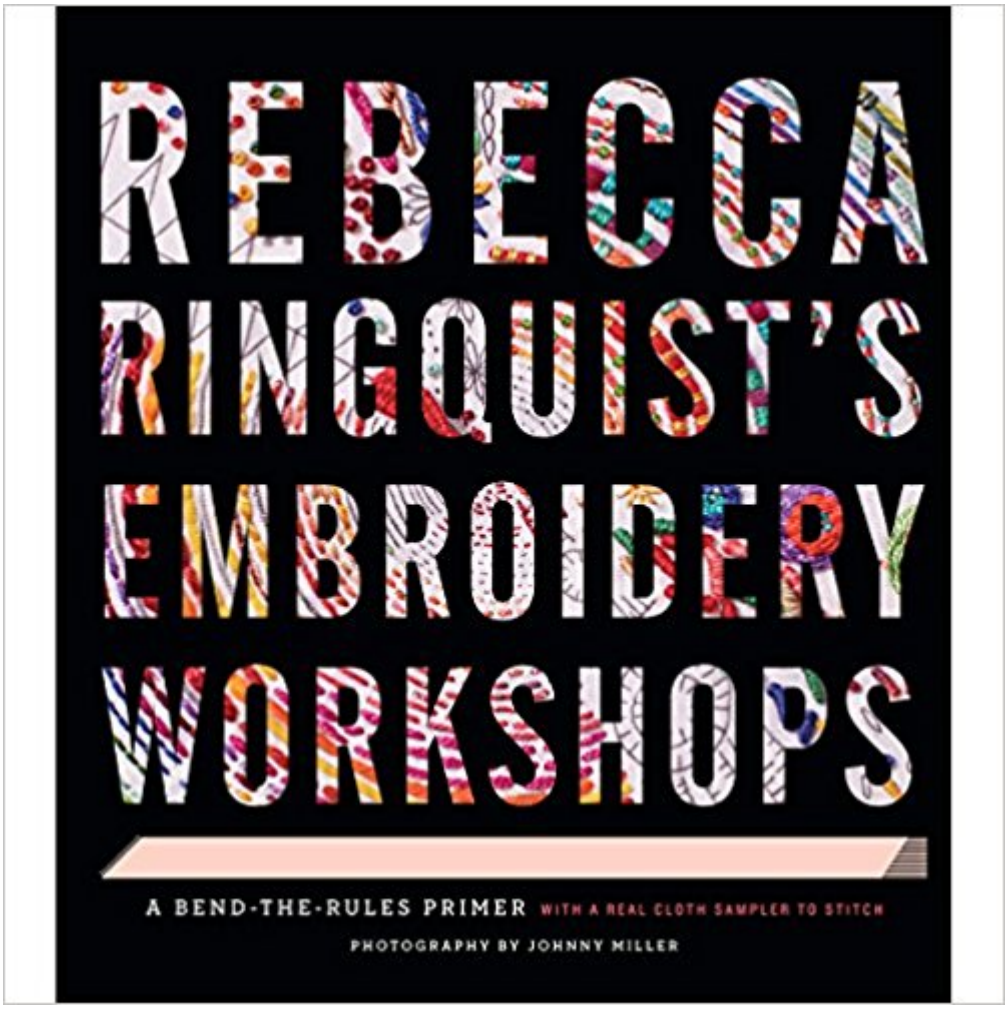
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Rebecca Ringquist’s Embroidery Workshops: A Bend-the-Rules Primer



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Synopsis

For the embroiderer who appreciates the value of beautiful stitches but also likes to break a few rules along the way, Rebecca RingquistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Embroidery Workshops is a refreshing new resource for both standard and out-of-the-box techniques. Based on the popular classes Ringquist leads across the country, Rebecca RingquistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Embroidery Workshops teaches everything from the Ã¢â ¬Å“properÃ¢â ¬Â• way to form a French knot and transfer a design to a canvas to new ways to stitch three-dimensionally, work with nontraditional threads and fabrics, draw with thread freeform, and mix and match machine- and hand-stitching. Also featured are instructions for 20 innovative projects, including a cloth sampler designed especially for the book (and packaged in an envelope at the back), table linens, wall art, and clothing embellishments.Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rebecca Ringquist is a sought-after mixed-media artist and embroidery instructor. She has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the New York Museum of Art and Design, Penland School of Crafts, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Etsy, the NYPL Crafternoon series, Squam, Purl Soho, and online at Creativebug.com. She sells her samplers on Etsy and her website drop-cloth.blogspot.com.

I just got the book and read the whole thing cover to cover. I skimmed much, like the parts about machine sewing since I just do hand embroidery. But the huge take-away from the whole book is I feel so inspired, I want to sit down and stitch. Rebecca Ringquist had me at the word "embroidery" and I giggled when I got to the very end of the book and saw her picture: she looks like a baby!! (Hm...that doesn't make me sound so good.....) But THEN I glanced over at the little square envelope fastened to the middle of the inside back cover. It looks handwritten with an orange marker: "Sampler inside!" I opened it up and pulled out the most precious thing: ah.....here's an actual piece of square cloth upon which she stitched this cool round sampler. It has concentric circles and lines to make these stitches: French knots, chain stitch, couching, spiderwebs, bullion knots, back stitch and running stitch.The VERY cool thing is that this sampler is shown a bit enlarged on all of page 45. It's just called a sampler of hand stitches. There are neat sections of stitches radiating from the middle and then some segments are a riot of texture with thick, colorful fibers. Let's just say she doesn't restrict herself to DMC floss (which she highly touts). As on the piece of cloth in my hand, the outside ring of the circle identifies the stitches of each section. The entire sampler fits into a 6" hoop and you can still see that outer border with the words just inside the hoop. She has happily left a few of the segments only partially stitched which gives you a sense of immediacy and even intimacy: it looks like she just set it down to answer the phone and will be right back to finish it.Then something dawned on me. I hiked back to rousing Introduction and across it, on page 9, she shows the BACK of the sampler in the hoop!!! Whoo hoo hooooooo...is it ever messy!!!From the Intro on, Rebecca (I guess we're on a first name basis) really punches the creative juices simmering in us. She tosses out the rules of young colonial sampler-makers which instilled "perfection, patience and politeness." Instead, she EMBRACES a messy back. She ENCOURAGES using knots that show through so it gives you something to stitch over and add layers to. She ENTHUSIASTICALLY wants to get you drawing and stitching. For once, an artist whose identified medium is embroidery doesn't get you all intimidated with designing. She recommends grabbing fabric that already has designs on it like polka dots: maybe you can use different stitches or colors inside each one...or maybe outline the border of each dot...or maybe play connect-the-dots. Whatever strikes your fancy.I love vintage and antique books and honor our embroidering forebears who paved the way for us. I love 30-45 yo books that either expanded into embroidery around the world or drilled down into one complex technique like goldwork or hardanger. I love many of the very recent books because they are fresh and really accessible.Rebecca Ringuist is an author to keep your eye on. This is a good book.

This is a beautiful book with lots of interesting projects that permit you to create your own variations on the themes presented. I like the author's perspective on broadening the traditional understanding of embroidery and enjoyed viewing the pieces pictured in the book. The information on materials (fabric, threads, sewing notions, etc.) was very helpful as were the suggestions for learning/practicing stitches. It is an inspiring book that can support beginners in early forays into embroidery and can spark new adventures for those with more experience. I recommend it highly to anyone interested in embroidery.

Truly a fabulous book for the "outside the box" hand or machine embroiderer. I poured through it as soon as it arrived, and cannot wait to get home and stitch. I normally stitch only by hand but now will try machine work too, because Ms. Ringquist shows how cool it can be.

I couldn't love this creative, informative, inspirational book more! If you don't have it, order it. Also, it goes along well with Rebecca's classes offered on creativebug, so check those out as well.

It's a beautiful and inspirational book. I have other books that details a lot more stitch types and instructions, but this one is good for starting out and the work shown in the book is beautiful, as well as the sampler cloth that is included for you to practice your stitches with. I really enjoy just browsing through and getting inspiration from it.

After seeing some examples of Rebecca's samplers online, I couldn't wait to try some myself. She explains the process well and I love the fabric sampler that is included in the back of the book. Unlike samplers of the past, hers are more relaxed and you can practice without feeling that every stitch must be perfect. Wish I could take one of her classes, but this is the next best thing! You can also visit her Dropcloth site on Etsy for more photos and samplers to purchase.

The reason I loved this book wasn't because Rebecca Ringquist is demonstrating perfect stitches and masterful projects; it is because she is demonstrating infectious and joyful creativity through her simple and fun projects. I felt inspired by her work. I have a number of embroidery books that show a wide range of stitches and precise project patterns to complete but, Ringquist's book puts the fun back into embroidery for me. The projects are easy, light-hearted, and interesting. She has a free-flowing energy that comes through in her work and her writing. I enjoy just looking through this book for no other reason than to feel inspired to loosen up.

This is a book we should all have, especially if we need lots of "how-tos" and lots of ideas that will be good jumping off places to encourage our own ideas to flow. The author starts with a lengthy and very good review of all the kinds of supplies we need, such as threads,needles and fabrics, and ways to use them in our work. Then she goes on to four chapters, Stitch, Draw, Trace and Layer, each of which includes basic techniques and projects. The basic techniques are exactly that, very basic, but useful reminders even if you think you know them already. The projects are fairly simple, but good to get you started and build your confidence. Both hand and machine stitching is used, so no stitchers are excluded. The final short chapter includes finishing ideas that you can use yourself, probably best for the smaller items you will have created. If you are thinking of taking off from other people’s projects and doing your own thing this is the book for you.

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