

For the Orts in Your Life
A Late-Period Blackwork Folding Orts Box
A Surface Embroidery Technique



Canby Robertson

1. All Project Dimensions: Embroidery design size: 3.5" x 13" Overall Size: 6" x 16" Open box dimensions: 4" W X 3.5" H
2. Ground material: Linen and silk ground fabrics
3. List threads and other materials used: Au ver à Soie (Soie d'Alger, Surfine), linen, silk lining, gold passing thread, spangles, needles, couching thread, Perle cotton, mat board, card stock, Steam---A---Seam bonding tape, quilt bat, Pellon

Classes are Saturday and Sunday. Nov 2-3 starting by 8am in the hotel lower level meeting room.

On Friday afternoon and evening, there will be a second workshop for Paining on Fabric. Canby uses the finest material which will include all the paints, brushes, linen, muslin, etc.

Inspired by a set of 17th Century Late Period Blackwork sleeves in the Victoria and Albert Museum Collection, this class will explore the last phase of English Blackwork. Influenced by the advent of the printing press and the availability of books with pictures, blackwork evolved from counted work into a surface embroidery technique that replicated in thread the linear quality and shading of motifs in early printed woodcut illustrations.



This compact folding six-sided box is ideal to carry in your traveling sewing kit. -Only 3½" tall and 4 ¼" across, this box has a removable bottom which allows it to fold flat for easy packing.



- Partial list of items in this kit:
- Au ver à Soie, Soie d'Alger
 - Au ver A Soie, Surfine
 - Linen with design
 - ,silk lining,
 - Gold Tambour#7
 - needles of different sizes
 - Gold Spangles
 - Silk couching thread
 - Perle cotton #8
 - mat board

With a linen exterior and silk lining, this box is embroidered using Soie d'Alger, Surfine silk, couching spool silk, Tambour metal thread and gold spangles. Stitches of the 17th Century period used in this project are; outline, seed, blanket, couching, herringbone, reverse running, trellis, coral knot, 4 leg flat spider web, reverse chain, double reverse chain, and double reverse chain with over buttonhole edge.



Day One we will explore the use of silk threads; Soie d'Alger and Surfine, and the stitches used in the black silk part of this embroidery. Coral knot, herringbone and trellis will be demonstrated.

Day Two we will discuss the use of metal passing threads, couching, and hexagonal box construction. Four leg flat spider web, reverse chain, double reverse chain, and double reverse chain with over buttonhole edges will be demonstrated.



Prior to class, students need to have a working knowledge of these basic stitches: outline, seed, blanket, running, reverse or double running. Students also need to bring one set of pliers with a smooth jaw and a bottle of Crazy Glue along with their usual sewing gear.