

## QSDS: Experimental Embroidery with Water Soluble Stabilizer 5 Day Workshop

This workshop with Toronto artist, Amanda McCavour, will focus on constructing dynamic, textured, mixed media surfaces with machine embroidery and three types of water soluble stabilizer. Free motion embroidery techniques and a variety of stitches will hold your work together creating lace-like work. You will be encouraged to experiment with an assortment of materials like plastics, papers, and yarns to create a variety of samples exploring different texture and colour combinations. These samples will be developed into larger pieces where you will explore colour, texture and line.





**Student Equipment List:**

**Sewing Machine:** One of the most challenging things about machine embroidery is working with the sewing machine. It can be frustrating, it can be tricky. So before the workshop starts, make sure that you are familiar with your sewing machine. Spend some time exploring the different stitches and make sure you know how to thread the machine, load the bobbin etc. This workshop will be about exploring stitching and experimenting with it so it is ideal to have a handle on the quirks and personality of your tools before coming into the workshop.

**Sewing Needles for your Machine:** The needles in your machine can break or get sticky with the special water soluble fabrics we will be using- so bring some extras with you. I would recommend picking up Universal, Sharp or Machine Embroidery needles that fit your machine.

**Extra Bobbins:** I would recommend to bring about 5 of these.

**Extension Cord:** Any length. Label with your name

**Embroidery Hoop:** This should be a smaller hoop that is around 5-8 inches across. Anything slightly bigger or smaller, you are welcome to bring as well.

**Scissors:** Fabric scissors and/or Embroidery scissors and/or fun scissors

**Towel:** Bring an old towel with you to dry the samples you will make in the 1st morning of the workshop.

**Pins:** These can be helpful for holding materials in place.

**Embroidery Floss:** For hand stitching. Think of bringing colours that relate to your images.

**Hand Sewing Needles:** Also for hand stitching.

Needle Threader: If needed! :)

**Thread:** Bring in some cotton, polyester or machine stitching threads. Most weights of thread will work well with the techniques we'll learn in class.

**Scrap fabrics:** Bring materials that you love. I know I have bins of beautiful fabric I'm just saving- and you might too! Bring some of your beauties to integrate into your project. Small bits of scrap fabric are ideal (2" x 2" and smaller).

**Scrap yarns:** Do you have scraps from previous projects that you are saving? This technique is an excellent way to recycle some of these materials.

**Tweezers:** For those who like to be very precise, these can be helpful for placing materials down onto the water soluble fabric.

**A kit will be provided for this course:**

\$50.00/student

**Embroidery Floss:** For hand stitching

**Hand Sewing Needles:** Also for hand stitching

**Thread:** polyester machine embroidery threads.

**Fabrics, Wool Roving, Ribbon, Japanese Papers, Plastics:** A variety of materials will be brought in for you to experiment with.

**Sulky® Water-soluble Stabilizer (Solvly):** Each person will get 1 yard Sulky® Sticky Fabri Solvy, 1 yard Sulky® Fabri Solvy and 1 yard Sulky® Solvy. Small samples of a variety of stabilizers will be provided for quick samples.