

In-person classes, a real look at the studio table, and links you'll love.

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An Artist Newsletter
by Becca Rahn

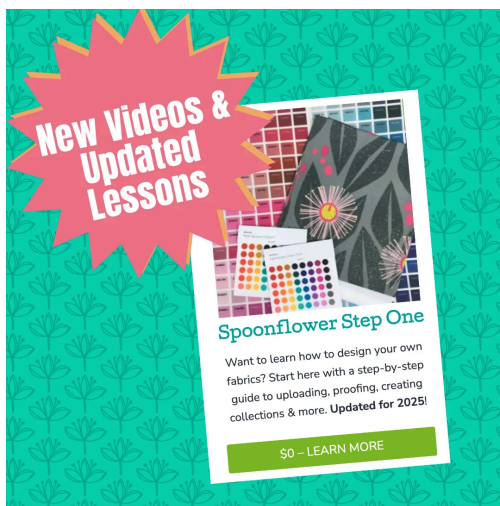


I'm teaching a bunch of new classes with some new partners this spring and all of them have a common theme. Each of my class partners has said "we've put an emphasis on building community for our programs for this spring and summer". That means more in-person classes, which is lots of fun. And I think that could be a positive thing with everything that is going on in the world. But I think the virtual community can be a really positive and powerful thing too! **You are a very positive and powerful part of my community by being a part of this newsletter.** I know lots of people are

thinking about moving away from social media, but I am sticking around because I value that virtual community. You can find me at [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [Facebook](#) and [Bluesky](#) if you want to chat at any of those places (and see photos of Stanley the labrador.) Hope this newsletter brings a little sunshine to your January!

-- Becca

what's new?



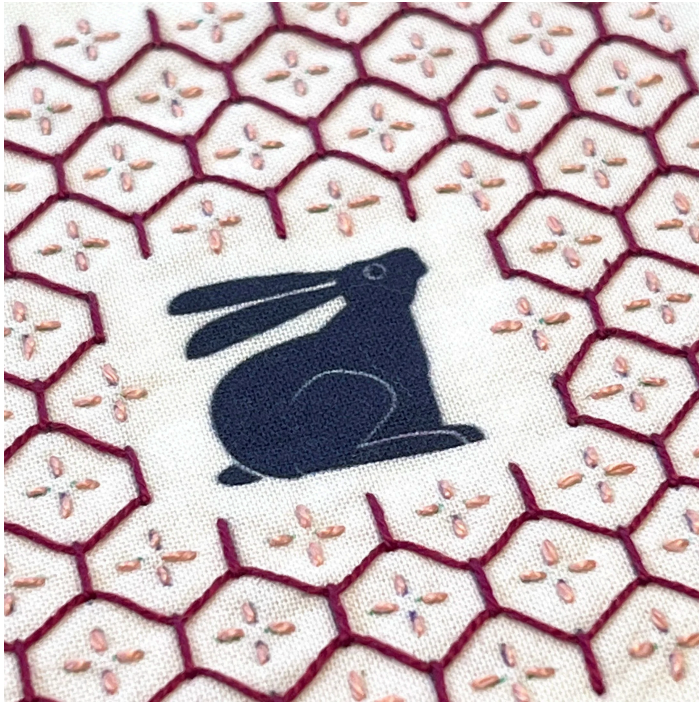
My free **Spoonflower Step One** on-demand class got a refresh with all new videos, updated lessons, and more. [Check it out at my classes page.](#)



I have a brand new Valen-toad [pattern in my Etsy shop](#). You can make frogs too. You just need a little felt and some sequins to start stitching.

I've also set myself a goal of writing MORE on my blog this year!

- [I wrote a recap of 2024 as a small business and what I observed.](#)
- I designed an awesome set of fabrics for Darn Knit Anyway and wrote a little [about the inspiration and how I made the designs.](#)
- And I wrote about one of my favorite art tools: [Every House Should Have a Playdough Board](#)



Sashiko Inspired Squares starts February 11 [at the White Bear Center for the Arts](#). I've got both online and in-person classes coming up so no matter where you are there's something creative you can try with me.

In-Person:

- Gathered Edge Bead Basket, February 27
- Embroidered Ledger Books, March 6
- Animal Portrait Ornament, March 18
- Embroidered Ledger Books, March 27

Online/Zoom:

- Embroidered Mushrooms, March 11 & 25
- Lily Pond Pin Cushion, April 8 & 22
- Spoonflower Step One, Intro to Pixlr (on demand)

>>Go to my class calendar for all the links and details.<<

Don't Miss: January 31 There's still time to take my class (and more) at the [Quilters Color Mixer](#). It's a brand new class I am teaching about designing your own monochrome fabric prints and that link will give you \$20 off.



The on-demand version of my **Cactus Garden Embroidery Sampler** class launches today!

Use code PRICKLE to get \$5 off for newsletter subscribers only.

Learn 23 new stitches and stop doom scrolling!

[See More about the Cactus Garden Class](#)

on the studio table





I decided to do something a little different with the studio table this month and show you a *real* behind the scenes shot. This is my studio table this morning. I am working on a new box that will be an alligator with a drawer in his belly. I have 4 classes to teach this week and so instead of working on this new art every hour of the day as I would like to be doing, I keep needing to clean off my table and go teach. But I think this has actually made the piece better, because I'm forced to come back to it with fresh eyes over and over. I'll show you the finished piece next month!

get in the game



We needed a game that was good for a larger group for New Years Eve, so we pulled out [King of Tokyo](#). You battle as giant monsters, rolling dice to control Tokyo and knock out the other Godzillas and Giant Robot Bunnies that are invading. Fast to learn and to play. Lots of laughing.



links you'll love

- [Shared by a friend, the documentary "The Only Girl In the Orchestra" is on my Must Watch list.](#) *"Trailblazing double bassist Orin O'Brien never wanted the spotlight, but when Leonard Bernstein hired her in 1966 as the first female musician in the New York Philharmonic, it was inevitable that she would become the focus of much interest and fascination."*
- Thoughts from Elizabeth Caven about [Joann Fabrics declaring bankruptcy a second time](#) and what may have contributed to it.
- My fantastic brother-in-law is the audiobook narrator on this book, [The Resilient Mind](#), which looks like it could be an interesting listen!
- [A story about origami artist Robert Lang](#), who lost his studio in the Altadena fires. I was lucky enough to take a class from him several years ago and I can't imagine what it's like to know that his work is all gone.
- A friend shared a link to [ooh.directory which is a new directory of blogs](#). Maybe they are coming back! I'm going to add mine.

- [I love these 3-D sequin flowers.](#) I have to try that on a project. They also shared another great tip for [transferring designs to felt with tissue paper.](#) Lolliandgrace (Instagram)
- I am absolutely enchanted with these dog rugs [from fiber artist Emily O'Leary.](#)
- I made a batch of these ["Perfectly Pillowey Cinnamon Rolls"](#) and they were delicious and the ultimate comfort food. I'd never tried the Tangzhong method before, but now I want to make more.
- And if you need even more cozy in your life, I recently read and loved the first few mysteries in the ["Oscar & Armstrong" cozy mystery series.](#) (There's a labrador. I couldn't resist.) I'm trying to spread them out and not binge them all in January.
- And finally, if you need a new series to watch while you knit, I recommend [Brilliant Minds with Zachary Quinto.](#) There is only a short season, but has a very hopeful/positive vibe that I am appreciating with everything going on in the real world right now.

Becka Rahn

1714 Lincoln St NE, Minneapolis
United States of America



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