



An Artist Newsletter

by Becka Rahn



This month I am thinking about the opposite of instant gratification. I took a class this past week on making micro-mosaics. These are made by breaking linguine-sized rods of glass into tiny bits and setting them up on edge in an epoxy putty to create your design. It's meticulous and at the same time, very meditative. I was talking to a friend who was waiting very impatiently to get his grades for a class final and he said something about how hard it was to have to **wait for something**. We hardly ever have to wait anymore: 2-day shipping, on-demand streaming, plug-and-play. It's become more unusual for things to take time. So, I'm looking for more of those things to try and just slow down and enjoy the experience. Today I'm baking a blackberry pistachio dessert which has about five wait-and-chill steps and

in the meantime, I'm slow stitching a lot of eye glass cases and thinking about animals. What are you slowing down to enjoy today? -- Becca

what's new?



I have a piece in the [Folklore show put together by The Snips Fiber Arts Collective](#). April 18-26
at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450
Snelling Ave, Minneapolis, MN
55406



I'll be at the **Spring Makers Market** on Sunday, April 27th
11am – 4pm at Darn Knit Anyway
Makers' Lounge 423 S Main Street
Stillwater MN 55082

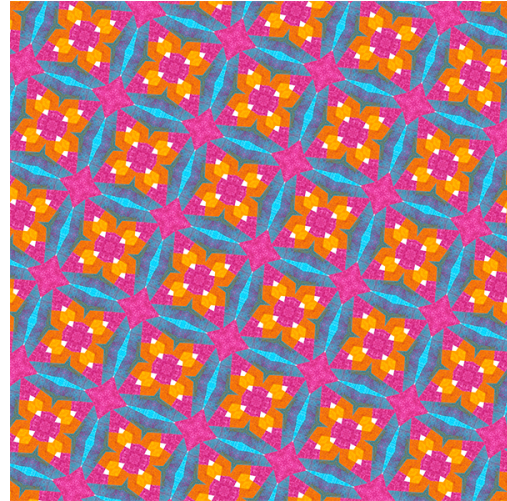
I'm stitching so many new animals
on felt glasses cases. This Yak will
be there along with highland cows,
pelicans, zebras, and more!

classes

I've got TWO fabric design classes coming up! It's been a while since I have taught these and I am so looking forward to them. Pick your flavor:



[Intro to Fabric Design at White Bear Center for the Arts.](#) Thursday, Apr 17, 6:00-8:30 PM. Design your own fabric from start to finish and get a swatch mailed to you after class.



Fabric Design Inspired by
Geometric Abstraction at the
Museum of Russian Art. Thursday
April 24, 6-8:30 pm. Class is held
in the gallery so we'll be inspired
by the art!



I'm hosting a **free**
Stitch Open Studio
on Thursdays in
April/May on Zoom.
Join me for stitching,
socializing and
community. Bring your
own project, ask
questions, chat! April
17, 24, May 1, May 15
from 12-1 Central. [All
the details and RSVP
at my website.](#)

Other dates & events to note:

- **Shepherd's Harvest Festival May 10-11**, Washington County Fairgrounds
- **Art A Whirl May 16- 18**, Northrup King Building NE Minneapolis

on the studio table



I'm starting to make new animal glasses cases for my spring events and I realized I have almost an entire alphabet worth of animals! This is V (vulture) and Y (yak) plus a highland cow. I took photos of all of them as I stitched and I am thinking of putting them together into something. **Please help me decide!**

Vote: Should I make the alphabet animals into:

☐ Alphabet Book

☐ Set of Postcards

Choose

shop



[TWO new patterns in my Etsy shop](#) for adventurous beginners: Parakeets and Dinosaur in a Sweater.

on the blog

This month I wrote about:

- [How Do I get Started Learning Hand Embroidery?](#)
- [Teacher Tips: What to do when a class gets cancelled](#)



- [International Art & Found Day 2025](#)
- [Embroidery Tutorial: Tying a Knot](#)

get in the game

Res Arcana has been a favorite of ours for a long time and they have come out with the [Res Arcana Duo](#) version, which is great for 2 players and you can play in 20 minutes. The theme is dueling magic users building cards and making gold to gain points.



links you'll love

- Loved this post by [postcard artist LouPaper about her creative process.](#)
- New favorite pattern from [Itch to Stitch: Vikos Top & Dress.](#) I've already made one and I love it. Beginner friendly, nice details, pockets!

- This was really interesting: [The Science of the Selfie \(No You Don't Really Look Like That\)](#) from Oh St Lou Studios
- [All That Glitters Is Not Gold: A look at Indian beetle-wing embroidery at the turn of the century.](#) So pretty! From Piecework Magazine.
- This [Duck March quilt pattern](#) is so cute. I especially love the little one squawking at the end.
- I love my hungry labrador and so I really thought this was interesting: [Genetic drive to overeat found in labradors and humans](#)
- This [King Salmon Hat Pattern](#) is awesome. I am not very skilled at colorwork, but I'd like to make this.
- [Thoughts about the fall of Joann Fabrics](#) from Tiffany of Aleene's Tacky Glue.
- This is a fun resource: [What to Draw and How to Draw It](#), a book from 1913, now in the public domain.
- I loved this: [The Pottery Class Paradox](#) (Instagram)
- I am absolutely going to make [an exposed facing top like this one shared by ClosetCore Patterns](#). (Instagram)
- [Really cute and simple packaging idea for a little grab bag type item.](#) (Instagram)
- If you haven't stumbled across @zinn_brilliant who makes old-fashioned dipped tin ornaments, you need to go watch some videos, and [I love what she says about pricing and keeping alive an art form in this one.](#)
- [Sneak peeks into the machine embroidery on the costumes for Wicked!](#) I didn't know this fabric was embroidered. So cool to see.

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