



An Artist Newsletter

by Becka Rahn



July was the month where I wrapped up a couple of really huge projects and it finally felt like I could take a breath and slow down. The bloom up above is the first one from our pond garden this year and I'm glad I got to stop and enjoy it. It feels like everything got a refresh this month! I wrote [on my blog about updating all of my branding](#) and mission statement. One update lead to another and another, and I ended up re-doing my classes site and the newsletter template here as well. I have to say it feels great! Like I've swept out some cobwebs and brought in some new energy.

So, I'm curious: what are you finding refreshing this month? New haircut? New patio chairs? A deep clean of your crafting space? A fabulous new iced tea

what's new



I did my second tutorial for Benzie Design this month. [Embroidered Pom ornaments inspired by vintage pyrex.](#)



I have a piece in the [Handweavers Guild of America Member Showcase](#) and you can vote for it to [get a People's Choice Award](#). Just click the Cast Your Vote link at the top of the page.



Neighborhood Guests City Park, Hartford IA

I had the absolute honor of creating a commissioned art installation for the city of Hartford, IA. I designed a utility box cover for the entrance to their city park. You can [watch a short artist talk about the piece here](#) and see a video of it just after it was installed. It was such a fun project!

classes



One Sheet, Six Pockets



I've got a brand new online class at both [my classes site](#) and on [Skillshare](#). It's a fun project making a sketch book or travel journal with a cover from a recycled paper bag.

And speaking of NEW

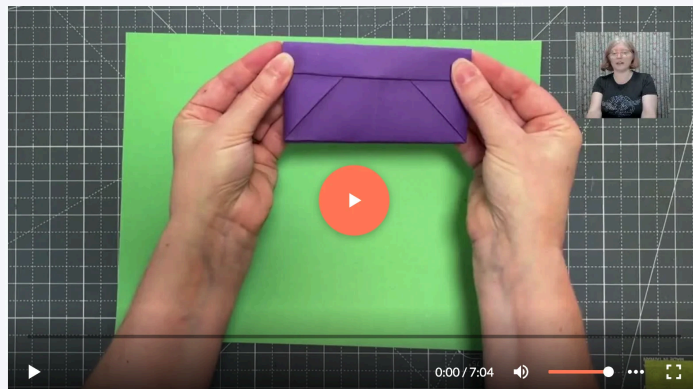
I just gave my [Classes at the Studio Table](#) site a huge refresh. There are three new classes, new photos and a new fresh look. Please let me know if you see anything quirky or broken links. I am my entire tech team, so I don't always catch everything.

Monthly Mini

Every month brings a brand new bite-sized project to make in about five minutes.

These mini lessons are a chance to try a new technique, use up a few favorite supplies, or make something just for fun. Each project is only available for one month before it's replaced with the next one, so don't wait too long to stitch, fold, sew, or create along. You don't even have to register; just click the video and let's get started.

July: Origami Box



Introducing the Monthly Mini. There's also going to be a [new FREE monthly mini class hosted there](#). Every month I'll show you a 5 minute project you can make along with me. **July's project will be up for just a couple more days and you can make my favorite origami box.**

shop



[New Mini Tapestry Loom kits in my Etsy shop.](#)



I've restocked all of the [dog postcards sets at Captain Labradork.](#)

on the blog

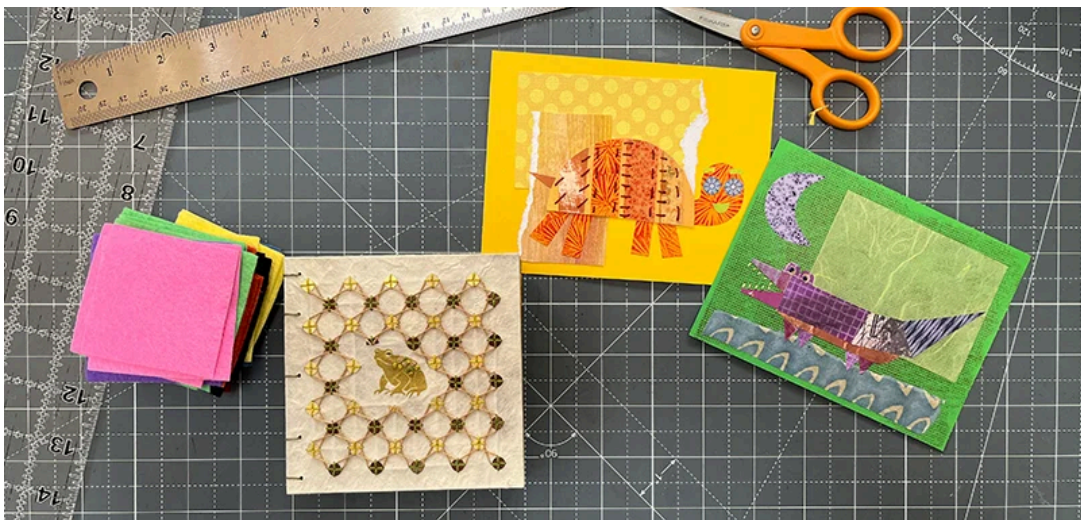


This month I wrote about:

- [Curiosity is my Core & Updating my Branding](#)
- [Behind the Scenes: Teaching \(or not teaching\) at a national conference](#)

on the studio table





On the studio table today are some felt squares I am prepping for a class tomorrow, two animal portraits from a fun class at White Bear Center for the Arts last week, and my "[Go Find A Frog](#)" book which was this year's rejected entry for the MN State Fair Fine Arts Competition. It's super competitive to get in (especially when they only take about a dozen fiber arts pieces) so it wasn't surprising but still disappointing to get the no thanks email.

get in the game



We are having so much fun with a game called [Faraway by Pandasaurus Games](#). A whole game takes 15 minutes and you only play 8 cards to travel across the world and back again, scoring as you come back home.





- A new paper artist I am following on Instagram: [@byritajane](#). Her Growlphabet is delightful.
- This [fish dress is amazing](#) and I love this post she did about it. If you scroll back you can see more about the making of.
- A very cool post about [preparing nettle fibers for spinning](#). Love her handmade tools.
- [Four totally unnecessary embroidery doo-dads that make your life harder](#). Yup I totally agree.
- This MPR story about [sinking the canoes in the Boundary Waters](#) was really fascinating.
- [An adorable muppets knit scarf pattern?!](#) Just take my money right now. I don't even know how to do this kind of knitting.
- I found this utterly delightful: [NYC's only miniature handmade greeting card shop](#).
- [The Real Cost of Pirated PDF Sewing Patterns](#): What customers should know, and what designers can do when their work is stolen (from Nic at Craftapalooza.) Such a good reference.
- Very excited to see this [Paris Couture exhibit at MIA that opens in October](#).
- I can't say anything more about this except that it looks like it could be amazing (no personal experience). [Sewing Doc Academy](#)
- Super interesting [interview from MOMA about restoring silent film scores](#)
- [Creative Stitches for Contemporary Embroidery by Sharon Boggon is one of my favorite books and she has come out with Volume 2](#). The best part of these books is that the photos show both left and right handed views of how to make the stitches.
- This is on my list to try this week. My sister sent me home from a visit with a cooler full of zucchini. It's that time of year! [Zucchini and Ricotta Galette](#).

- I've done a lot of driving lately and listened to this whole audiobook series by Glynn Stewart: [ONSET series](#). If you liked Men in Black but a little darker this might be up your alley.

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