

Thread Paint by Number

by Cindy Scraba Photo Credits: Cindy Scraba

Who knew those endearing “Paint by Number” sets, first introduced in 1950, would become a collectible item? This was an innovative way to introduce the technique by Max Klein, owner of Palmer Paint Company. Despite the sneers of art critics, their popularity has survived. Today, paint by number art continues to be decorative, ironic and even artistic amongst the pop culture and resembles techniques also used by progressive quilters.

Embroidery created by either machine or hand stitches is, in effect, painting with thread, if you trade the paintbrush for a needle. Traditionally, yarn crafters utilize layers of counted stitches to generate their pieces, while machine thread painting is a free-form (although intentional) technique. Both methods follow a design or line drawing and produce incredible works of art with the potential to become heirlooms. Here’s your chance to try this liberating machine technique, which I refer to as the “Thread Paint by Number” technique.

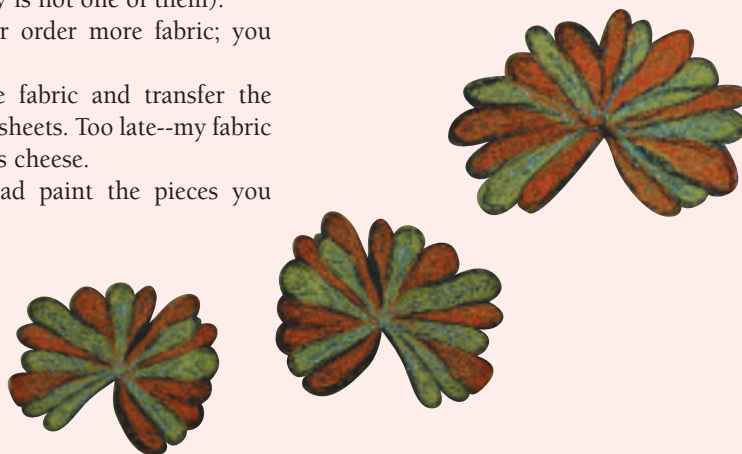
Background for this Quilt Project

While in the process of creating “My Prairie Roots” entry for the *CQA/ACC 2009 Trend-Tex Challenge*, I wanted another dimensional element for my Carrotop Rootlets trio. The funky, Orchid Boho Blossom fabric from Michael Miller included in the kit was a perfect candidate for my task; however, my fat quarter was getting leaner. My real challenge here was the motif I wanted to use didn’t appear enough times in the pattern repeat. When you procrastinate to the final hours to finish challenges, you have 3 options (sympathy is not one of them):

1. You can buy or order more fabric; you can’t buy time.
2. Photograph the fabric and transfer the image to photo sheets. Too late—my fabric resembled Swiss cheese.
3. Trace and thread paint the pieces you desire!

Project Supplies and Tools

Threads: your palette should include a variety of thread paints to blend together, including your bobbin thread colour. I used Sulky™ rayon green and orange to mimic the stylized foliage motif, Superior black Metallic™ and turquoise Glitter™ for highlights, plus black cotton for outlining. Other Tools: #90/14 Topstitch needle, your design, marking pen, hoop, tulle, water-soluble stabilizer (Dissolve™ 20 microns or Solvy™ light work equally well.)



Photos: Cindy Scraba

To progress as quilters, I truly believe creativity must be challenged and encouraged. Thanks to Trend-Tex Fabrics, Inc. for their ongoing support of the annual Challenge Event and to the CQA/ACC for producing an opportunity for quilters to share skills and exhibit their talents at conferences across Canada. It invites quilters to continually challenge themselves and try new techniques.

Who could have predicted that someone's idea to market paint and encourage artists to try a new technique like paint by number could one day influence resourceful quilters, too?

I welcome your comments: www.cindysthreadworks.com/blog/

– Cindy
The Material Girl

Full view of completed quilt challenge "My Prairie Roots" featuring main characters: Farmer Teddy, Flora the Cow, and the unsung heroes Carrottop Rootlets.





2010 Workshop Series

- **QUILT POTPOURRI BEGINNER SERIES**
May 29, 2010 with Dianne Carson, in Zurich.
- **12 YEARS ON THE RAIL**
Aug. 14 or 15 with Grace Whiting from Ottawa,
at Creative Sisters Quilt Studio in Kitchener
- **MASTER CLASS IN HERITAGE QUILTING DESIGN**
Oct. 16 or 17 with Carole Cunningham, in Beamsville
- **MASTER CLASS IN CONTEMPORARY
QUILTING & THREAD PAINTING**
Nov. 2010 (TBA) with Sue Patten

FOR MORE INFORMATION
& to obtain registration forms on these workshops
please contact Joan Hug-Valeriot, VP, CMQA
Email: jhugval@horizonsquilting.ca
519-836-9388



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

To Be Quilting Inc.

B-Line 18!!

18" throat... now you can sew from bar to bar!

- ✂ Handles front and rear with on/off and single stitch controls
- ✂ Built-in Stitch regulator included
- ✂ 1800 stitches per minute with standar machine needles
- ✂ Sews beautifully!! No feed dogs to mess with!
- ✂ PC Quilter ready!
- ✂ Can be adapted many other 18" quilting systems
- ✂ Black aluminum body, anodized finish
- ✂ Weighs less than 40 lbs
- ✂ Specific Studio Model carriage included for lower handle capability



Call 1.800.796.3632

6094 Pioneer Avenue, Agassiz, BC V0M 1A2 Canada info@tobequilting.com
www.tobequilting.com

\$5350
Plus Taxes,
Shipping