



News Blast

July 2017

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Take advantage of our virtual Trunk Show and in-house sale!

Humming Birdie

Karen Chrissinger relates how she overcame her fear of a complicated canvas and "Made it her own" using ribbon, beads, and an evolving plan.

Classes

Don't miss out on a wonderful new Kelly Clark class beginning soon featuring her fun "Kitchen Rooster" design.

Thread Thrift

Diane Snyder discusses various ways to reduce your ORT pile with good thread management.

Canvases

Join us in celebrating "Christmas in July" with great canvases available online or in the shop.

Store Calendar

Birthday Coupon

Contact Us:

244 W. Olentangy St.
Powell, OH
(614) 436-3905
Jill@louisesneedlework.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Louise'sNeedlework>

Store Hours: (EST)
Monday: 10am to 4pm
Tuesday: 10am to 7pm
Wednesday: 10am to 4pm
Thursday: 10am to 4pm
Friday: 10am to 4pm
Saturday: 10am to 4pm

Closed Saturday, July 1 thru
Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Christmas in July!

Can you believe that it is July and we are halfway to Christmas! I hate to even begin to think about the Christmas rush. At Louise's we have been trying to think of ways to help you with the Christmas rush and how can we save you money. We have always had a Christmas in July sale of 20% off Christmas along with a trunk show. This year we do not have a Trunk Show but are doing a virtual Trunk Show and an in house sale! For our Christmas present to you, you will receive 30% off of in stock canvases and 25% off of any canvas special order. Take advantage of this sale as it will definitely not happen again this year. Merry Christmas and happy stitching.

Our schedule for the 4th of July weekend is as follows: We will be closed Saturday July 1st through Tuesday July 4th. We will reopen with regular business hours on Wednesday, July 5th at 10:00 a.m. If you want to make sure you get an in stock canvas you have had your eye on, use code XMAS30 and shop early online!

In thinking about Christmas, finishing deadlines are fast approaching. Halloween items must be to us by July 24th, Thanksgiving and Hanukkah items must be in by August 7th, and Christmas ornaments, pillows boxes, and stand ups must be in by August 14th. Stockings will be taken up until November 1st.

Join us and for food, fun and stitching at our July Stitch In on the 15th from 1:00 to 4:00p.m.

Cardinal and Fruit Wreath \$174

Melissa Prince Designs. Handpainted canvas on 18 mesh. Canvas size is 18 x 19.



Twelve Days of Christmas Wreath \$174

Melissa Prince Designs. Handpainted canvas on 18 mesh. Canvas size is 18 x 18.

Humming Birdie

Several months ago I purchased the Zecca Canvas/Hummingbird/ZE413 from our store. The canvas had been displayed for a few months right in the center of a main wall. Every time I went into work, I checked to see if "Humming Birdie" was hanging. The piece just mesmerized me. I think I was reluctant to make an immediate purchase because I was intimidated. I had no direction in my head as to how to stitch the piece. But - one day the light bulb went off! I had a vision...finally! Several visions in fact! So I began the stitching of Humming Birdie. I always tell students to approach the canvas at the area that you "see first"....or perhaps the easiest area to stitch. I feel that if you start easy, the ideas and concepts will start to develop in your mind for other areas...let the creativity begin!

So, the first area that fascinated me was the flower bouquet. Remember the rule...leave ribbon work till last? Did not apply! I put all those large flower heads in with all the ribbons and threads I could find. And then, I broke rule number two...leave beading till last. Couldn't! Ran down to my craft room and scrounged around for some jewelry making beads from the old days. I found all sizes of black beads and filled those flower centers in a messy beading style. The gaudier the flower center, the happier I was.

Once that bouquet was stitched, the rest of the canvas became easy to envision and I focused on adding special touches to the canvas. I want to share a few of the ideas I incorporated onto the canvas to make the piece my own. Another thing I tell my students: "Make the work your own creation and have fun".

1. I changed one of the flower heads from orange to pink. While I am a strong supporter of following the artist's color scheme, once in a while I have to change direction. It may be an issue of wanting to use a special ribbon or thread or simply using up my stash. Don't be afraid to experiment with a change in color occasionally.
2. I always try to incorporate a new stitch in every project.
3. I always try to use a new thread in a project.
4. I broke the canvas into areas and actually stitched five different background stitches with different threads and or beads. By the way, one of my favorite backgrounds is to use a bead in a brick beading method. So clean and simple to stitch and just adds another dimension to a canvas.
5. Don't be afraid to use beads that are not necessarily designed for needlepoint canvas. The tail feathers on the bird consist of blue semi-precious round balls. The pink flowers have the large red faceted beads used in jewelry making. Using the lasso method of beading certainly helps stabilize that larger bead to the canvas.
6. I had never stitched a palm frond. This gave me the chance to use that wonderful Silk Road silk straw fiber that adds such a warm and natural look to canvases. Just start stitching. If you have to rip it out, so what? I think that having to occasionally rip out threads and stitches or experiencing a "vision" failure makes for a better stitcher!
7. I wanted to give the leaves some added dimension. So, I actually stitched some with threads, some with ribbon, and some with beads. So much fun!



Hummingbird (ZE 413) by Karen Hennessey of Zecca Designs

I can't express enough how much fun this canvas was to stitch. A canvas that initially scared me is perhaps one of my favorite works to date. It pushed me into thinking outside the box and trying new ideas, stitches and concepts. As a needlepoint teacher, my ultimate goal for each and every student is that they experience success and are proud of their work. I want them to "Make it their own".

Classes

Kelly Clark Kitchen Rooster September 22 -23, 2017

Join us for this fabulous 2 day class with Kelly Clark. Learn stump work techniques as well as silk ribbon techniques on this beautiful canvas. Breakfast and lunch are included along with many other surprises. Call the shop for details. 614-436-3905. The total class cost is \$600, with a deposit of \$200. Seating is limited so call soon.



Thread Thrift

You've found the perfect canvas. You used your birthday coupon and earned enough reward points to save 25% on your purchase. Now you need threads. Depending on your choices, you may be spending an equal amount or maybe more for threads as for the canvas. While we all love a good bargain, many of us don't realize how much thread goes to waste. You can easily lose up to 25% of your thread if you are not careful. Here are some tips to manage thread loss.

- **Too short thread lengths:** You will want to take into consideration how much thread you need for starting and ending threads. (See our November 2016 newsletter for more information). An away waste knot or bargello tuck will require more thread than a pin stitch or L-stitch. Consider the type of stitch you are using; some stitches such as French knots require a long enough length on the front of the canvas to manipulate the thread while making the stitch. Similarly, using a laying tool also requires keeping enough thread on the front to lay the stitches properly. At the very minimum, I prefer leaving at least 3-4 times the length of the needle before ending the thread. So let's assume you need 4-6 inches for beginning and ending, and you cut your thread into 12-inch lengths. You've just lost 30% - 50% of your thread. Cutting longer lengths will reduce the percentage of loss per length.
- **Long carries:** Try not to carry threads across the back of the canvas for more than 4-6 canvas threads. Burying a long length of thread can lead to uneven tension, causing rows or bumps on the front of the canvas. Leaving long threads loose across the back can lead to knots or split threads and loose stitches on the front, potentially leading to a rip it or redo. Unless areas are fairly close together, begin and end each area separately.
- **Worn needles:** Unlike threads and canvases, needles are inexpensive. Use a fresh needle for each project. Check the eye of the needle for any burrs or worn spots. These can catch and shred your threads as you are stitching and make the thread unusable.
- **Thread management:** Most threads have a card or tag; you can use the hole in the tag to hold cut lengths of thread. If you are separating strands, use the hole to store the leftover strands to combine with others. If you don't have a card or tag, use a small baggie to store each thread separately along with its leftover lengths. You may only need a short length for a few stitches and you won't have to cut another length of thread if your threads are sorted and easy to find. A large pile of unsorted threads may look pretty but won't be conducive to thread thrift.

Christmas in July Canvases



Choir Boy #3 \$53
Raymond Crawford Designs Handpainted on 18 mesh canvas.
Total canvas size 8 x 11



Christmas Trees \$159
NeedleDeva Designs. Handpainted on 18 mesh.
Canvas size 9 x 16.



BANG Kiss \$39
Barbara Bergsten Designs. Handpainted on 14 mesh. Canvas size 11 x 8.



Merry \$69
Kristine Kingston for NeedleDeva Designs.
Handpainted on 18 mesh. Canvas size 10 x 12.



Americana 3-D House \$94
Associated Talents Designs. Handpainted on 18 mesh.
Canvas size 10 x 12.



Santa's List \$74
Debbie Mumm for Melissa Shirley Designs.
Handpainted on 18 mesh. Canvas size 7 x 9.



Bird's Nest Snowman \$76
Mary Lake Thompson for Melissa Shirley Designs. Handpainted on 18 mesh. Canvas size 9 x 12.



Stitcher Santa \$174
CBK Needlepoint Designs. Handpainted canvas on 18 mesh. Canvas size is 9 x 12.



Bucket Hat Snowman \$76
Mary Lake Thompson for Melissa Shirley Designs. Handpainted on 18 mesh. Canvas size 9 x 12.

July Calendar

Closures – We will be closed Saturday, July 1 thru Tuesday, July 4, 2017 to celebrate our national holiday.

Stitch In - Our next monthly **Stitch In** will be Saturday, July 15, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. No instruction or fees – just a fun time with other great stitchers. Share your ideas and learn from others. Refreshments are provided.

Threads, Stitches and More - every Monday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm - an informal canvas embellishment class with Karen Chrissinger. Classes are \$11 for two hours and \$15 for three hours.

Sip and Stitch – every Tuesday, 7:00 to 9:00 pm - an informal canvas embellishment class, with Jill Elia - and wine. Classes are \$11.

Thursdays with Karen - every Thursday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm - an informal canvas embellishment class. Classes are \$11 for two hours and \$15 for three hours.

Private Classes – One-on-one sessions are also available. These sessions are \$25/hour and require advance arrangements.

July Birthday Bucks



Louise's Needlework

20% OFF Your Total Purchase

244 W. Olentangy St.
Powell, OH 43065

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E-mail: jill@louisesneedlework.com

During the month of July, bring this coupon and proof of your July birth date. One coupon per year per newsletter subscriber. May not be combined with other coupons and may not be used for the purchase of gift certificate or trunk show canvases. To use this coupon for special orders, coupon must be present and payment received at the time special orders are placed.

Expires July 31, 2017

Happy Stitching!