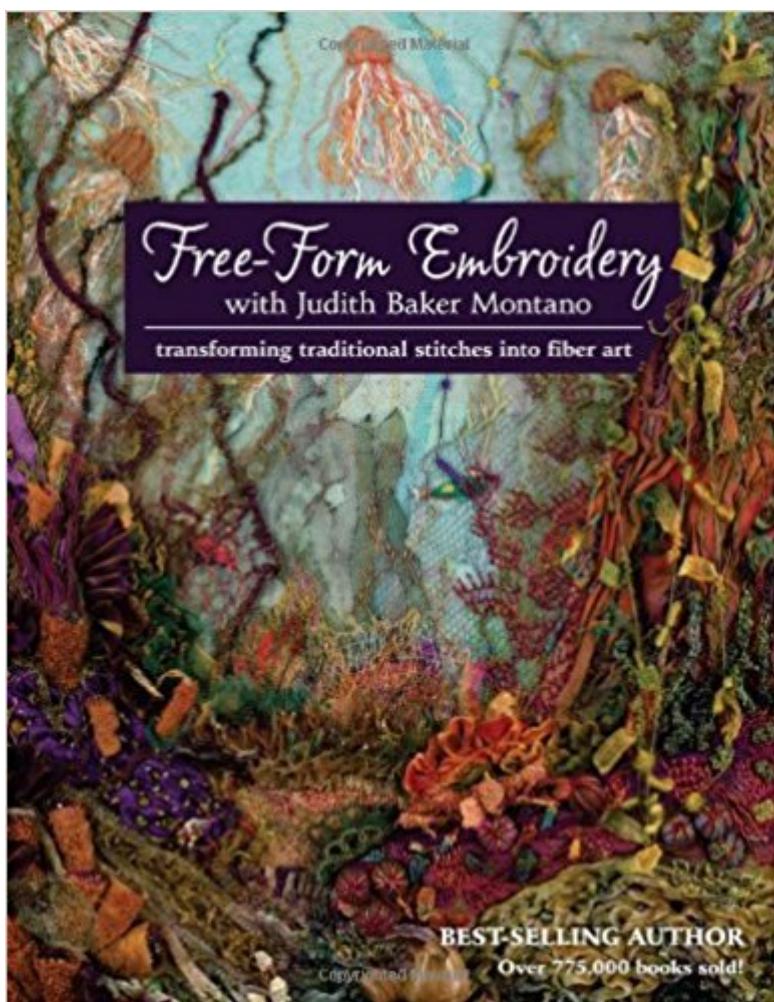


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# Free-Form Embroidery With Judith Baker Montano: Transforming Traditional Stitches Into Fiber Art



## Synopsis

Bestselling author Judith Baker Montano is back with a new comprehensive stitch guide that will take you beyond traditional embroidery. She'll show you how to create stunning landscapes and seascapes by applying fine art principles to your fabrics, threads, and fibers. Learn how to use these materials with other embellishments to convey lifelike trees, flowers, ocean corals, and more with 60 stitches and 67 stitch combinations. Learn artistic embroidery techniques for building layers, creating dimension and perspective, and blending shapes•translate your favorite snapshot of any landscape or seascape into fiber art!

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: C&T Publishing; 10/16/12 edition (November 16, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1607055724

ISBN-13: 978-1607055723

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 118 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #116,973 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Fiber Arts & Textiles #56 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Embroidery #173 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Quilts & Quilting

## Customer Reviews

For embroiderers ready to make the leap of faith from pillowcases with kittens stamped in blue to fiber art, Montano's newest serves as a beautiful bible. Having embroidered dancing spoons on dishtowels helps, however, because transforming traditional stitches into fiber art requires knowing the basics. In the introduction, Montano, an award-winning fiber artist, author (*Elegant Stitches*), and teacher, encourages embroiderers to leap from traditional to free-form stitchery by describing her own journey from a frustrated little feather-stitcher to a fiber artist, honoring her influences in her account. She annotates supply lists: threads and ribbons, yarns and fabrics, hoops and tools. Techniques starts with choosing background fabrics and ends with framing finished work. Montano's abundant stitch guide, a quarter of the book,

ranges from A for arrowhead to W for whipstitch. The guide moves seamlessly to "Combining Stitches," which illustrates ways to thread trees, vines (even "evil" ones like kudzu), and shrubs via photographs and drawings; ditto, flowers and fish. Montano marries an embroiderer's guidebook with a nature study to produce eye candy. (Publishers Weekly, 10/01/12) Judith Baker Montano is the queen of hand embroidery to many quilters. Her numerous books have taught a generation about crazy quilting and embellishment, silk ribbon embroidery, and more. Her latest book merges traditional stitch techniques with a modern approach to including embroidery with contemporary quilt making. The gorgeous hand-drawn and watercolor illustrations are totally captivating in their beauty and clarity. I was surprised and impressed to discover they were created by Judith herself, who has a background in fine art and is clearly an accomplished watercolorist. This comprehensive book includes all a reader needs to know—a glossary outlining styles, supplies, and tools; a stitch guide of 60 beautifully illustrated stitches; informative chapters on utilizing stitch in projects; and more. Two notable chapters, "Combining Stitches" and "Think Like a Painter," encourage readers to use embroidery in new and innovative ways. Judith ends with taking readers through the creation of a special project, from the first photograph to design decisions to the final product. (Quilting Arts Magazine, Dec/Jan 13) The Queen of Crazy Quilting (and silk ribbon embroidery) has produced another sensational book: this one for those who enjoy stitching in a "painterly" manner. She provides loads of instructions, guidance and advice for approaching embroidery as an art medium. You'll find a stitch dictionary of free-form stitches along with watercolor illustrations from her own journal, and tips for combining stitches to create trees, grasses, flowers and underwater shapes. There's a fascinating chapter entitled "Think Like a Painter," which will help you bring the pictures in your mind to fruition with needle and thread, and another in which she provides step-by-step photographs and detailed notes about the processes she used to create a textile landscape. If you're ready to be a bit adventurous with your embroidery, if you aspire to create art with stitches, buy yourself a copy of this book. It's 128 pages of inspiration. (Australian Homespun Magazine, 3/5/13) Create a work of art as you translate your favorite picture of any landscape or seascape into fiber art by learning how to use artistic embroidery techniques for building layers, creating dimension and perspective, and blending shapes together cohesively. I was completely amazed by how the different stitch combinations can be used in context to create the theme you are portraying. This is the perfect guide to get you using all those threads, scraps of tulle and lace, wool, and buttons you have been saving just in case they are needed! (Fabrications Quilting For You, February/March 2013)

Judith Baker Montano is an award-winning fiber artist, a bestselling author, and a world-renowned teacher whose career has taken her from painting, to crazy quilting, to embroidery art and beyond. She lives in Colorado.

I am a huge fan of Judith Baker Montano's, owning five of her books to date. I actually use her books, not just for inspiration, which is plentiful, but for instruction. In this book, Montano is branching off from strict embroidery or crazy quilting, though the works have elements of both, into fiber art pictures, landscapes and abstracts using embroidery, painting, dying and crazy quilting techniques. The results are phenomenal. Plus, it is a lovely book to look at with Montano's watercolor sketches of stitches, plants and landscapes. First materials are reviewed including, thread, ribbon, fabric and tools along with a bit of color theory. There is a good stitch guide encompassing surface embroidery and some ribbon embroidery of some sixty stitches, including some ideas about how to combine stitches as well as showcasing stitches in different materials and how it affects the results. Montano also covers the basics of constructing a fiber landscape using crazy quilting techniques. Montano also names the supplies she uses to get specific looks by brand and this is helpful as well. Montano also talks about thinking like a painter and constructing landscapes that have a discernible fore, middle and background, helpful for those of us with little experience in drawing. Montano goes into more depth in her single technique books and I would recommend getting one of Montano's a crazy quilt book for further techniques in construction of fiber landscapes, but this wonderful book does give the basics of construction. Another wow from Montano, one of my favorite embroiderers and fiber artists. This book is worth the price of admission alone for the lovely artwork and inspiration. As with all of her books, the reader gets the feeling that the writer is a generous teacher and sharer of techniques. Recommended to quilters, embroiderer's and fiber artists who want to take the next step in fiber construction. A solid A.

I first saw this book at a friend's house in the hard cover, once I learned I could purchase it at the lower paperback price, I sent for it immediately. Living on Social Security only allows paperbacks so it was greatly appreciated that I could obtain this GREAT book. I have been doing needlework for over 70 years, I just loved the new ways to use the stitches I already knew and the new ones that were in the book.

I thought her previous books were better and gave more ideas for using the embroidery. I own all the books that she has written and I would encourage beginners to buy those rather than this one.

I chose this book because of the cover and I thought I could get a few ideas from it. The book provides a lot of detail on how each stitch is done and the type of material used. It has lots of tips and photographs. It also has how to stitch trees. It provided ideas that I never thought of. Its a wonderful book and I have so many projects lined up. I'm so glad I purchased it.

The illustrations in this book are amazing! Makes you look at plants and landscapes with a different eye. I've been a long time fan of Judith's books and work. I was definitely not disappointed with this one. THANK YOU!!!

This is an awesome book to add to your library. In fact, I loved it so much that I checked it out at the library multiple times before realizing that I needed to purchase one for me to keep forever!

Since getting absorbed in multi-media fabric art, I've brought back embroidery into my life. This book offers so many fabulous ideas to incorporate. Mostly I use her technique on top of fabric I have dry felted. The examples in the book are clear and illustrations most helpful. Even a beginning embroiderer can understand. This is one of those "must have" books for any fiber artist or for the novice interested in getting involved with needle and thread.

Her books keep getting better and better. This is full of stitches for ribbons and threads. Lots of ideas for creating underwater, trees, grasses and plants.

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