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Embroidery the Complete handbook for the Beginning Embroiderer

Cecile Dreesmann

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Cecile Dreesmann : Embroidery the Complete handbook for the Beginning Embroiderer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Embroidery the Complete handbook for the Beginning Embroiderer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What a charming little bookBy Jane in MilwaukeeCecile Dreesman (1920-1994) was a Dutch artist and author who was able to translate her drawings into beautiful embroideries. She was an expert stitcher but also studied the history of embroidery. This is a bit of a history book but even more, a stitch guide. This is one of my favorite types of books so it gets two big thumbs up from me. The book is quite small, merely 5" by 7.5" but a lot of info is packed into its 173 pages. Here are the chapters:page 1 - - - I. The Backgroundpage 9 - - - II. About Techniques, Materials, Toolspage 21 - - -III. Basic Stitchespage 41 - - -IV. Counting Threadspage 103 - - -V. Free Embroiderypage 132 - - VI. Established Techniquespage 173 - - BibliographyThe first two chapters have a good discussion on the definition and brief history of embroidery. The third chapter is the most interesting to me: each of the pages shows how to make two different stitches demonstrated both by a small bw photo of a line of the stitches and a line drawing of the stitch. The weird thing is: it's pretty haphazard how she names the 100 stitches shown. There is the cross stitch, herringbone, chain stitch, Holbein or double-running stitch...but then she adds multiple variations by changing the size or direction of a part of a stitch. She refers to previous stitches she's changing mostly by referencing their stitch number 1 to 100. Here is how she discusses one of the few named stitches: on page 79, "By 'flattening' a diagonally worked buttonhole stitch (see 64a), you finally arrive at a straight horizontal line, thus creating the well-known stem stitch." She shows three stitches of diagonal buttonhole...then three more that are in a straighter line...then a whole row of straight stem stitch. Brilliant! I never thought of it that way!The author has a very facile way of

looking at embroidery stitches that is sort of daunting. Chapter IV on counting threads is taking the basic stitches and multiplying rows or combining them with other stitches in order to make bands, fillings or borders. It's quite charming: she takes a shape like a circle or the letter "A" and shows how to make it with four different stitches. It's all very versatile and lovely. "Established techniques," then, gets back into the history and a brief guide to different countries' embroidery such as hedebo in Denmark, hardanger in Norway, and Broderie Anglaise in England. There are many much more indepth embroidery histories out there like any by Mary Gostelow or Erica Wilson. And much better stitch guides include: Encyclopedia of Embroidery Stitches, Including Crewel (Dover Embroidery, Needlepoint) The Proper Stitch: A Guide for Counted Thread Stitch Sampler: The Ultimate Visual Dictionary to Over 200 Classic Stitches However, I find this almost 50yo book to be a wonderful addition to my burgeoning needlework book library.

A COMPLETE HANDBOOK FOR BEGINNING EMBROIDERER . WHAT THE ART OF EMBROIDERY IS ALL ABOUT