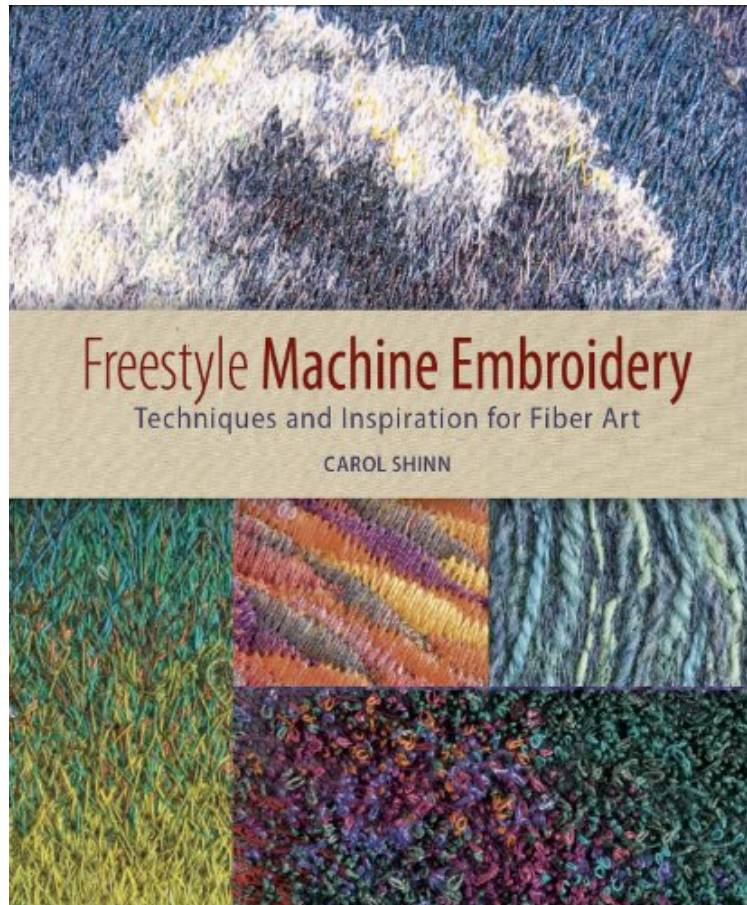


Freestyle Machine Embroidery: Techniques and Inspiration for Fiber Art

Carol Shinn

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Carol Shinn : Freestyle Machine Embroidery: Techniques and Inspiration for Fiber Art before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freestyle Machine Embroidery: Techniques and Inspiration for Fiber Art:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Freestyle Machine Embroidery By Moonwishes (AKA Gail Rodgers) While looking through my many needlecraft magazines, I came upon a project done by Carol Shinn that I thought was amazing, so I was delighted to see that she had published a book on her techniques. I have been looking for quite a while for a book that showed how to do freestyle machine embroidery which is not the same as doing machine embroidery using digitized designs. With freestyle machine embroidery, you use your sewing machine as a paint brush and thread as the paint, sewing down layers of color to make a picture or design. In my quest I have come upon books that while supposedly about this type of embroidery, spend half the book talking about painting backgrounds, etc. Well if I could paint backgrounds I think I would stick with painting and forget trying to learn how to machine embroider the picture. This book, however, explains some simple projects that you can do with painting blocks of color (or you could print the blocks out using special ink jet photo transfer paper) and then explains how to

use your threads to sew out these simple designs. Once you have learned these simple techniques then you go on to learn how to show transparency of colors in your designs. There are plenty of pictures so that you can understand the step by step process including showing the blocks and the spools of thread used in the project and how they combined. The author explains the materials she uses and the whys of what she uses and at the same time going on to describe other material that can be used and how you would need to stabilize it. She also spends time on explaining how a design can distort due to the quantity of thread taking up fabric depending on the way the stitches lie. This is the first I recall hearing about the possibilities of distortion from all the books I have read on freestyle machine embroidery in so it was certainly good to know. Along with her own work she shows examples of other artists and explains their basic techniques and philosophy about what they do. At the back of the book was a page of recommended reading with a long list of books that I hadn't heard of. I think my wish list will be expanding if I can't find the books through my local library. All in all this was a terrific book and one I highly recommend if you are interested at all in this sewing technique. Perhaps after reading this book, I will now be able to go back to my other books on machine embroidery and understand the techniques for combining the thread better.

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Eye candy and inspiration
By J. M. Arden
This is threadwork as an artform by itself, not as an additional facet of textile or mixed media art. Many of the pieces and techniques discussed in Carol's book would need thousands of yards of thread to make. She explains clearly how to stitch over a transferred image, and what effect direction of stitching will have. She also shows some great examples of colour blending. There is a gallery of mostly abstract work by other artists in thread. The subtitle tells you what the book is providing - both techniques and inspiration.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must-have for textile artists...
By Barbara Benning
This is a great resource for textile artists. Great photo-pics and step-by-step instructions for making your own unique project. Doesn't matter what kind of machine you have, this is something that can be achieved on all of them. I love the way she explains and lays out the steps and what to do and what not to do. I love doing garments that are unique and express my sentiments!

Explore the possibilities of Freestyle Machine Embroidery for quilting and fiber art with this technique and inspiration guide for all skill levels. This comprehensive guide reviews all the basic methods and stitches for each technique, with step-by-step photographs and illustrations from start to finish. Learn the basics of Freestyle Machine Embroidery, starting with supplies, understanding fabric distortion, thread tension, and how to care for your sewing machine. Learn color mixing with thread to create visual interest in your work, how to choose image and design, the details of stitching images, and how to combine freestyle stitching with different materials and techniques. Expand your knowledge with diagrams, close-ups of sample swatches, troubleshooting tips and design guidance for taking your machine embroidery to an artistic level. A gallery of artists' work using Freestyle Machine Embroidery is featured, plus an appendix includes a useful chapter on setting up your workspace and caring for your machine. Regardless of skill level, Freestyle Machine Embroidery is an indispensable guide for every textile artist's personal library.

"All I can say about Freestyle Machine Embroidery is WOW, it's amazing what you can do with a sewing machine besides quilting or sewing garments! I am convinced that Carol Shinn is the sewing machine equivalent to Jenny Hart." - StacySews.com
"Explore the possibilities of freestyle machine embroidery and its application for quilting and fiber art with this technique and inspiration guide for all skill levels." - Needle Magazine