

A Glimpse of Gold

Half-Day Workshop

Close your eyes and travel back in time to a world in which gold gleamed differently; a world lit only by flame and by fire.

This workshop celebrates the beauty and variety of goldwork stitches used by stitchers prior to the Civil War to adorn clothing, accessories, book pillows, book covers, and other personal and domestic items.

Exploring the textures and techniques of these lost and opulent approaches to goldwork embroidery is an immersive like no other.

The design you should be able to complete on the workshop starts simply and adds variety and interest in a supportive and scaffolded way, each step building on the next, in a process which will suit beginners and intermediate embroiderers alike.

We will briefly cover the background to 16th and 17th techniques of working with gold thread, moving on to an evaluation of types of passing thread and needles that will give the best results, types of fabric to use for maximum effect and ease of working, techniques of starting and finishing stitches, as well as tips and hints to improve accuracy and enhance the 'wow effect' of your work.

The workshop covers

- Design for 16th and 17th century English goldwork embroidery
- Execution of design – pluses and pitfalls
- Thread and fabric choices
- Appropriate tools (needles, threads, cutting implements)
- Starting and finishing threads
- Methods of keeping consistent tension when working

Stitches: Include (as time allows) Woven Wheel, Twisted Chain, Chain, Plaited Braid Stitch, Ladder Stitch, Stem Outline Stitch.

Output: Floral goldwork design executed in 16th and 17th century English goldwork techniques.

Experience Level: Suitable for beginners with basic experience of needlework as well as intermediate and advanced stitches new to these techniques.

Materials provided for you to take away: Fabric, goldwork passing thread, workshop handout.

Please bring: A sewing kit including needles and sharp scissors to cut thread; separate goldwork scissors (metallic threads have a tendency to blunt scissors, so use a dedicated pair for this); any aids you require such as needle threaders, magnifiers, or lamps.

Materials available to use during the workshop: A selection of threads, needles, and scissors for use on the workshop, magnifier.