

Empty Spools 2027 Class Information Libby Williamson

Note: I have no preference on which class is offered during which of my two workshop weeks. Both classes involve painting, mixed-media and free-motion and/or hand sewing. I suppose the considerations will be based on the other teachers that are teaching during those weeks and how the classes will compete with/complement one another. If you would rather that I repeat my class “Wonky Sisters” (taught last spring) instead of one of these, I am fine with that. These two classes are new to Empty Spools.

1. Tea Bag Revival

(This has been a very popular class at many venues. I am teaching this at Alegre Retreat in Colorado in April 2026 This class sold out immediately. Claudia Sammis can add her input regarding this class.)

Class description: (Condensed version for printed brochure)

(Confident beginner)

Paper tea bags, steeped, dried and emptied, are the foundation for these magical artworks. By applying paint with mark-making techniques, a stash of beautiful paper and fabric will be created. The tea bags are then collaged, free-motion and hand stitched. These precious pieces are arranged onto fabric to create a wondrous composition in any theme you choose.

Class Description : (Expanded version for the website)

(Confident beginner)

A used paper tea bag, when dried and emptied, becomes the foundation for a precious piece of art. First, acrylic paint and a variety of mark-making techniques will add lovely color and texture to miscellaneous fabrics and papers, creating a stash of luscious materials. Realistic or abstract shapes in any designs are cut from these materials. Then each tea bag will be collaged with these shapes. The addition of free-motion machine sewing and/or hand stitching will add linear detail. A final composition will be arranged using a fabric substrate combined with variety of textured fabrics and trims. The final result: a unique, wondrous art quilt.

The background fabric is approximately 20” x 30”. However, you might choose to make several smaller compositions, a scroll, or even an accordion book. The final composition size, shape, and format is up to you.)

Come play with me and make these magical artworks with recycled paper tea bags!

Materials/kit fee: \$45 includes:

- Tea Bags (2 dozen dried, emptied, and pre-fused to muslin.)
- Additional steeped and dried tea bags, Mistyfuse, and muslin for your use
- Background fabrics: Monk's Cloth & additional textured fabrics, ribbons, trims, and lace
- Cotton canvas
- Acrylic felt
- Assorted fabrics and papers to be painted in class
- A selection of pre-painted fabrics and papers (hand-painted by Libby) for your use
- Acrylic paints and inks
- Mistyfuse
- Parchment paper
- Matte medium
- Glue
- Embroidery threads and needles
- Assorted sewing machine threads for your use
- The shared use of tools: stamps, stencils, texture plates, paint brushes, acrylic paint markers, paper and fabric scissors, and additional supplies, and Chocolate!

Student Supplies:

- Art apron
- Fabric and Paper scissors
- Sewing machine with free-motion capability (and a darning or free-motion foot)
(Some machines are available to rent)
- Basic sewing machine supplies: regular feet, pins, seam ripper, bobbins
- Machine thread (I use black 40wt.) in your choice of colors

Optional Supplies:

- Your kit fee will include all fabrics for your project but you might prefer something different. Additional information regarding optional supplies will be provided before class. Monk's Cloth will be provided in your kit but you might opt for something else as a background fabric.
- Additional scraps of fabrics and lace to incorporated into your background. I will provide plenty of textured fabrics and trims for your use.
- Backing fabric of your choice. Paintable natural cotton canvas will be provided for the back side. (More details to follow)
- Specialty embroidery threads, buttons, beads, or embellishments that you might wish to add

2. Stitch Stampede

(This has been a popular one day class and I am looking forward to offering it as an in-depth five day workshop.)

Class Description: (Condensed version for printed brochure)

(Confident beginner)

Let's Play with Clay and get Stamping!

Create a collection of unique clay stamps, (birds, flowers or any designs) then print the images onto fabric. Details will be added with paint markers, free-motion and/or hand sewing. These separate pieces will then be arranged and attached to background fabric, in any shape or size, creating a wonderful composition.

Class Description: (Expanded version for website)

(Confident beginner)

Let's Play with Clay and get Stamping!

Create a collection of unique clay stamps using a variety of mark-making tools. Birds and bugs, fish or flowers, a menagerie of animals, houses, or abstract shapes....your design choices are wide-open. Then, using a blend of acrylic inks and mediums, we will print the patterns onto cotton fabric creating a stash of your images in a wide variety of color ways. Paint markers can add detail, refining the designs. These prints will be free-motion and/or hand-stitched then arranged and attached to a background fabric. My preference is to use free-motion machine stitching but this process will also be beautiful with simple hand-embroidery. You might choose to make one larger composition, several smaller ones, or mount them in a book format or a scroll. Come explore this easy, unusual fabric printing technique and make some magical art.

Materials/kit fee \$45:

All materials will be provided for the project.

- Polymer clay
- Cotton fabric to print on
- Lightweight cotton canvas for backgrounds
- Acrylic felt
- Freezer paper
- Parchment paper
- Drawing paper
- Acrylic paint
- Matte medium
- Foam printing mats
- Inspirational designs and patterns

-Shared use of mark-making tools, paint brushes, acrylic paint markers, embroidery threads and needles, clay ovens, and of course there will plenty of chocolate!

Student Supplies:

- Sewing machine with free-motion capability, free-motion or darning foot, regular foot (Sewing machines are available for rent)
- Basic sewing supplies - pins, extra needles (I use top-stitch and denim needles), bobbins, seam ripper, thimble, etc.
- Sewing machine thread - your choice of colors - I use 40 wt. black
- Fabric and Paper scissors
- Art apron
- Fabric for back side (details to follow)