

Edmonds, Janet, *three-dimensional EMBROIDERY: Methods of construction for the third dimension*. Batsford, London, England, 2009

This book is a wonder of ideas and creative inspiration. The embroidery presented is varied and includes machine-embroidery and hand, and there are also sections on knitting, weaving and the like.

The book is divided into an Introduction and 7 chapters, ending with Conclusion, Resources, and an Index. The chapters include Design, Materials and Equipment, Constructing with Flat Pieces, Continuous Lengths, Manipulated Methods, Beads, and Finishing Techniques.

The Introduction presents some history of embroidery techniques (especially those with dimension) and states its purpose as dimensional embroidery as art, rather than the "making of functional items." The first chapter, Design, begins with ideas and inspirations for ideas, then how to work with these ideas to come up with a design. The chapter presents straightforward approaches to bring an idea to fruition – with interesting examples.

The second chapter covers Materials and Equipment – from fabric and threads, to support mediums such as wire and wood. Examples of helpful tools and other equipment are also discussed and presented. This book encourages the reader to not restrict oneself to a set list of either materials or equipment – but to remain open to ideas.

Chapters three, four, and five are the primary sections for understanding the methods and techniques for creating three-dimensional pieces. The chapters are on Constructing with Flat Pieces – both geometric and free-form designs; Continuous Lengths – coiling and free-form building; and Manipulated Methods – including fabrics, techniques for manipulating, and Working with a Former. The manipulative techniques of the materials include tucks, folds, gathering, burning, heating/distorting, molding, stuffing and weaving. There is also a section on Working with a Former – a temporary or permanent base, usually of paper, wire, or the like.

Chapter 6 covers beads, hard and soft, as embellishment or as primary content; including how to build with beads. Chapter 7, Finishing Techniques, includes discussion on edges and rims, bases, supports, feet, and lids. Again, a number of inventive and creative solutions are included.

The Conclusion presents the author's perspectives and personal journeys to three-dimensional embroidery. I highly recommend this book as a wonderful source of inspiration and ideas.