

Book Review - The RSN Essential Stitch Guide to Silk Shading

‘For those of us lacking the training of a classical fine arts education these topics can be somewhat intimidating. Sarah Homfray has done us a great favor. She presents a ten page mini course on these topics in her silk shading guide. In addition to the history of the technique, and a discussion of the various fibers and background fabrics appropriate for this type of stitching, she shares a very accessible and very useful discussion of the basics of color planning and composition. Her comments on composition can help you decide where you actually want to place, or move, that motif you’re considering for your sampler. Her recommendations on planning the color palette for your piece can save you from ending up with a hodgepodge and instead getting the “I never would have thought of that-it’s lovely” comment. We all have our color preferences.

Sarah’s advice will help you to present your favorites in a way that shows them to their best advantage by considering both their placement in the piece and the numbers of hues and tones that will work together to their best advantage. Other silk shading books on the market are good for specific projects that the authors have designed but if you would like to create your own, or change an existing design to reflect your own taste, I highly recommend Sarah Homfray’s book. As with all the RSN guides, it is spiral bound and meant to be used for easy reference while stitching or planning your piece.’

Sarah Halsey

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