

**Inaugural class offered at the CAR Fall Seminar on Sept. 25-26, 2026*

An In-depth Introduction to Thread Painting Embroidery **A Day and a half technique class in notebook format with Leslie Mehard Brady**

Welcome to thread painting, the art of creating hyper-realistic, painterly images using nothing but needle, thread, and an alarming amount of patience. This notebook or technique class is your deep dive into the mechanics and methods that make thread painting magic happen.

We're setting aside projects and finished pieces to focus purely on the *how*—breaking down each step that transforms thread into art. Consider this your laboratory: a space to practice and build your confidence and technical foundation without the pressure of perfection.

You'll practice fundamental techniques: long and short stitch (the backbone of realistic shading), thread blending (because nature doesn't come in discrete color blocks), and directional stitching (more of the secret sauce).



Fair warning: side effects may include an obsessive thread collection reorganization and the irresistible urge to stitch everything you see! Bring your curiosity and let's decode the art of thread painting together!

Proficiency: Beginner Intermediate (for the confident beginner and all levels beyond)


Prerequisite knowledge: Some surface embroidery experience helpful

Kit Cost: \$55.00 per person

Kit Contains:

- Tight-weave ground fabric with traced design motifs
- Backing fabric (high quality cotton muslin)
- DMC Stranded Cotton Floss
- Appletons Crewel Wool (1 colorway)
- Embroidery/Sharps needles and Chenille needle
- Susan Bates Hoopla Hoop
- 45+-page, full-color, printed curriculum
- Doodle cloth




LESLIE BRADY
Embroidery

Class Modules:

Part 1: Technical Foundations and Preparation

- Thread Painting Defined
- History and Evolution of Thread Painting
- Essential Tools and Materials:
 - Selecting appropriate ground fabrics
 - Framing up properly
 - Which needles to use and when
 - Importance of lighting and magnification
- High-level overview of the Principles of Color Theory
- Transferring Designs
 - Using a light box and/or bright window
- Tracing tools (pens and pencils)
- Thread Types and Selection
 - Creating the illusion of light and shadow




Part 2: Let's Paint with Thread

- Starting and ending threads
- Motif outlining
- Order of stitching
- Directional guidelines for various motifs
- Thread control and tension management
- Sample stitching - long and short stitch
 - First Row | Second Row | Third Row

Part 3: Intermediate and Advanced Techniques

- Long and short stitch for different shapes
 - Curved shapes
 - Leaf Turn
 - Overlapping flower petals
 - Round shapes (i.e. fruit)
 - Animal fur

lesliemehardbrady@gmail.com | 843-637-5640


LESLIE BRADY
Embroidery