

Inspiration: Tam Joseph,
The Hand-Made Map of the World

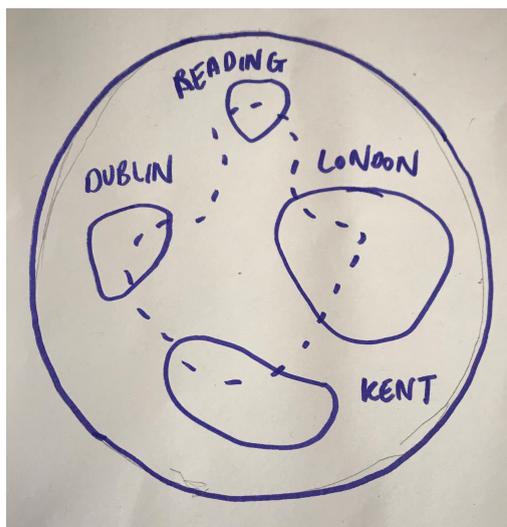


Technique:
A hand sewn map of your world!



Overview:

Tam Joseph reimagines the world as we know it; re-allocating countries to different patches of land across the globe. The colourfully painted countries reminded me of a patchwork quilt. This made me think about the places that are important to each of us across this big world; homes now and past, holidays, a place of birth; it's endless.



Tweet your finished maps @BenUriGallery using #WaysintoArt

Materials:

- White fabric square
- Embroidery hoop (not essential but useful!)
- Mix of coloured embroidery threads
- Mix of coloured fabrics
- Embroidery needle
- Sharp scissors (for fabric).

Process:

- 1/ Cut a square piece of plain, white fabric to fit inside your embroidery hoop. The hoop is not essential, but keeps the fabric taught making it easier to sew / hold.
- 2/ Now you're prepped, think about your design. I chose four places which were special for different reasons; Kent - birthplace, London - home, Dublin - family, Reading - study. These don't need to be accurate shapes, they can be symbolic.
- 3/ Now we're ready to start sewing. There are three main types of stitch to start with;
 - Running stitch; start underneath, go up, make a little line, go back down (London)
 - Cross stitch; start underneath, make one little line, cross another over it (Dublin).
 - Filling stitch; go from one side of the shape to the other and repeat to fill in (Kent).
- 4/ Stop to think about your design after you've sewn each shape. Choose colours that look good together or are symbolic, eg. flag colours. Try not to overcrowd it.
- 5/ Once the different areas of your map have been filled in with stitches and you're happy with the design, take it off the hoop. Cut around the edges evenly to neaten.
- 6/ Add the whole design to a piece of backing material. If you're working as a group you may like to add everyone's map to one piece of fabric (like countries in a sea!).

Ideas:

- Using random shapes to represent places works well, but some may like to draw the actual shape of a country, so have access to a map / the internet to look it up.
- A simple running stitch connecting each of the different places is a reminder of old ordnance survey maps which used dotted lines to symbolise different roads / paths.

Top tips:

- Keep away from the edges of your fabric as the material may fray when handled.
- Don't leave your fabric in the hoop overnight - it will stretch! This will make it an odd shape when you sew to the backing fabric. If this happens, pad out with cotton wool!
- Lettering can be tricky; to achieve the curve of an 'O' or a 'D' for example, use smaller stitches close together. Fabric pens provide a great, less fiddly alternative.