

## **Stitching Emotions**

### **Collaborative project for the Mary Linwood exhibition**

We don't know Mary Linwood's feelings about her embroidery practice but she must have loved stitching. Women's experiences in history are rarely recorded and we have very little written evidence of how they felt about doing embroidery.

This project gives a voice to women's experience of stitching and embroidery and allows us to share why we do this practice of slow hand stitching. All suitable\* contributions to this collective project will be included in my exhibition Mary Linwood: Art, Stitch and Life at Leicester Museum Sept 2025 - Jan 2026.



\* We reserve the right to refuse any contribution which does not meet the brief or is in any other way unsuitable for display in the museum, which has a family audience.

## **Stitching Emotions fabric and colour choices**

Mary Linwood used naturally-dyed wool threads on natural linen background.

Please try and use a similar colour palette for your stitching. Some colour ideas are given on the next page, but this is not the only colours you can use. Mary Linwood used hundreds of colours to give lots of variation and shading in her embroidery. There are examples of her work on the following pages. Some will have faded a little but mostly these are good representations of her colour palette.

Mary Linwood used fine worsted (wool) threads, most like our crewel wools today. You can use cotton, linen, silk or wool threads for your piece. Please don't use metallics, synthetics, shiny threads or any other non-natural fibre.

Base fabric: please use natural linen or similar colour, off-white or cream cotton. Please use a medium-weight fabric so thread on the back doesn't show through to the front. If your fabric is thinner, please use a backing of fine muslin or similar so your fabric is not too flimsy to join to others. Make sure this backing extends to the seam allowances as well.

Make sure you allow the seam allowances all around as shown in the diagrams following.

Use the questions below to think about and design your piece. You can use images or words or both.

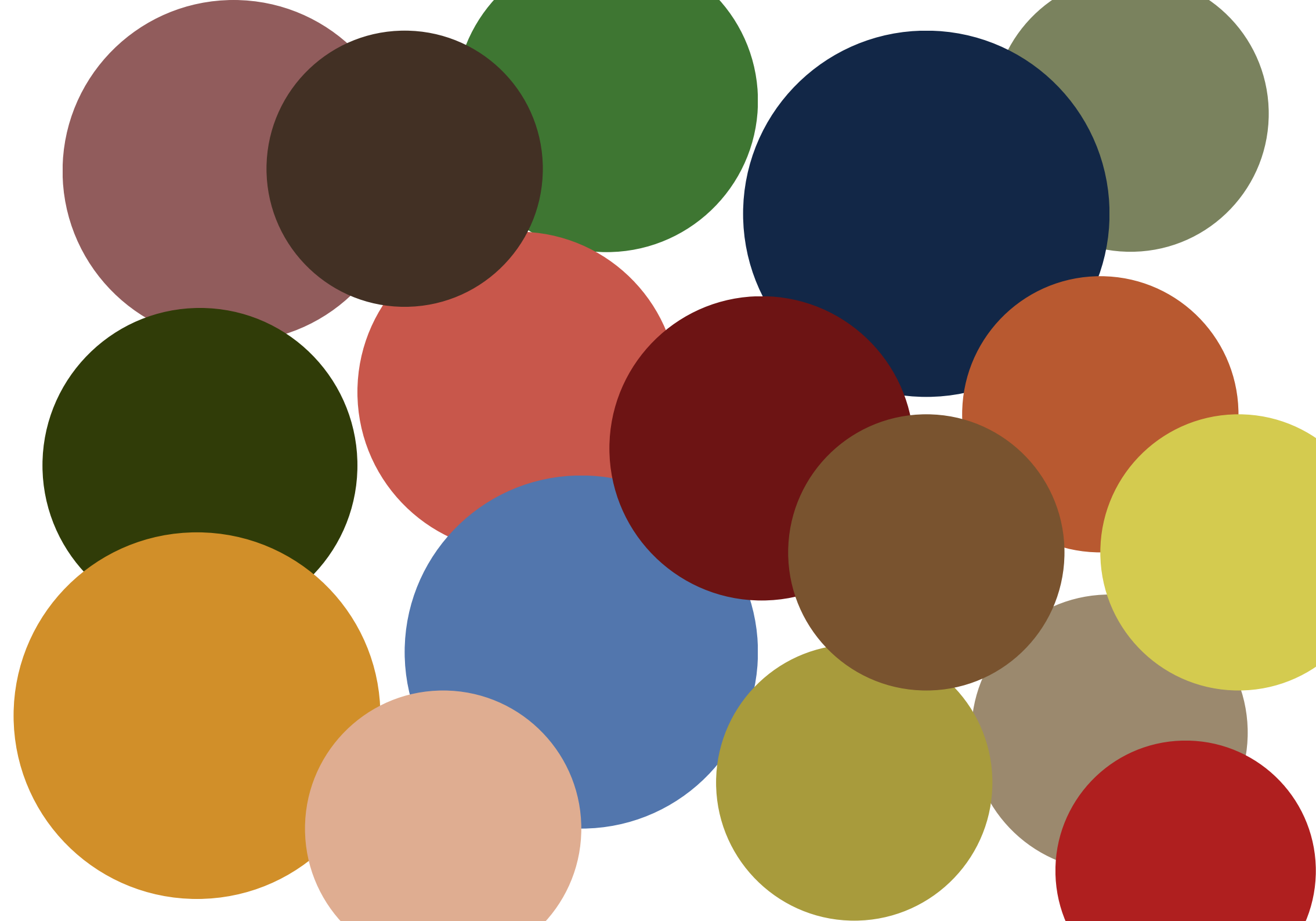
Make a square or rectangular hand-embroidered piece following the dimensions below

Complete your square / squares and return to Ruth Singer by 30th April 2025

How do you feel when you are doing embroidery?

What emotions are significant when you are stitching?

What do you think should be recorded about women's  
experience of embroidery today?











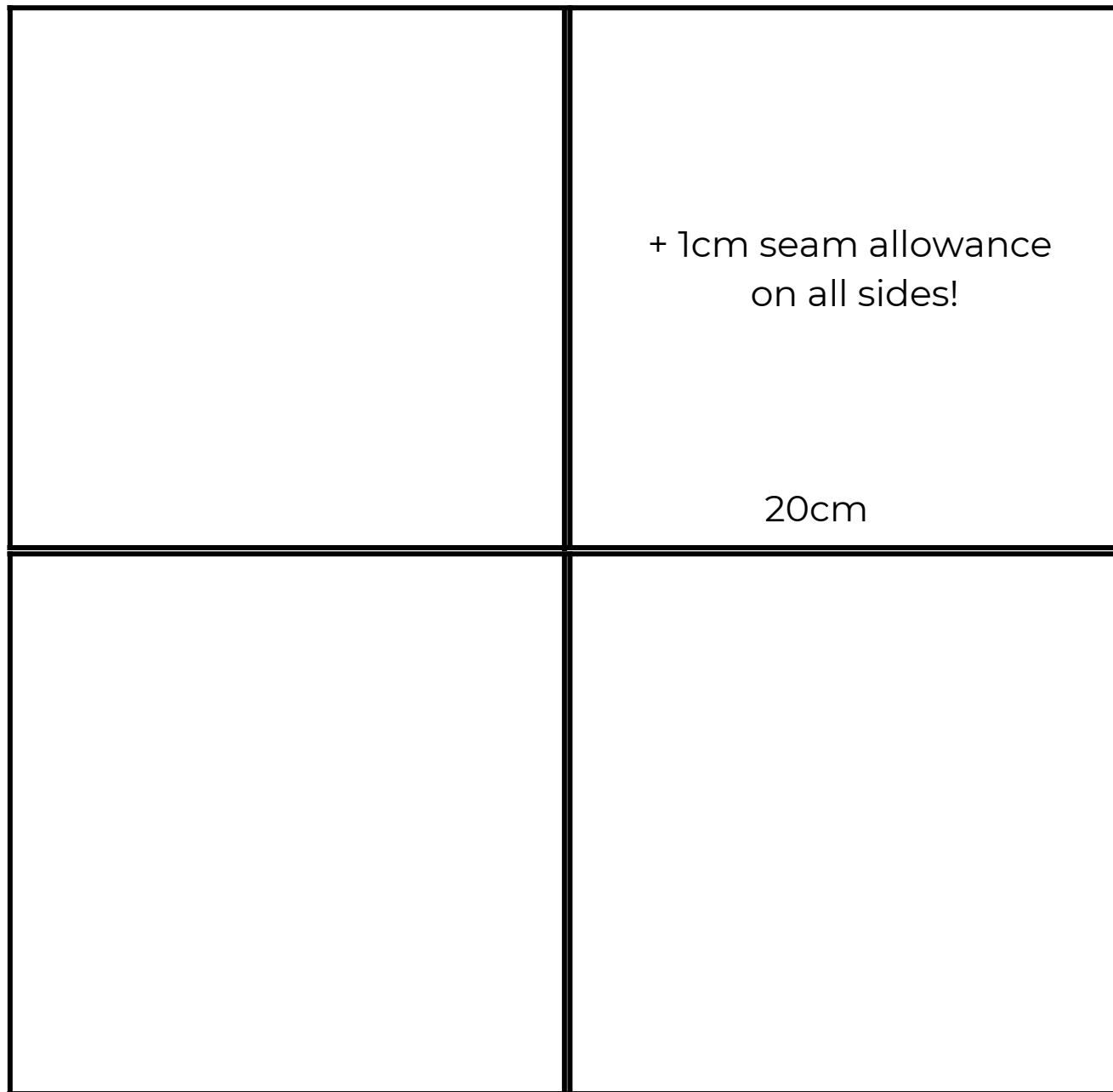












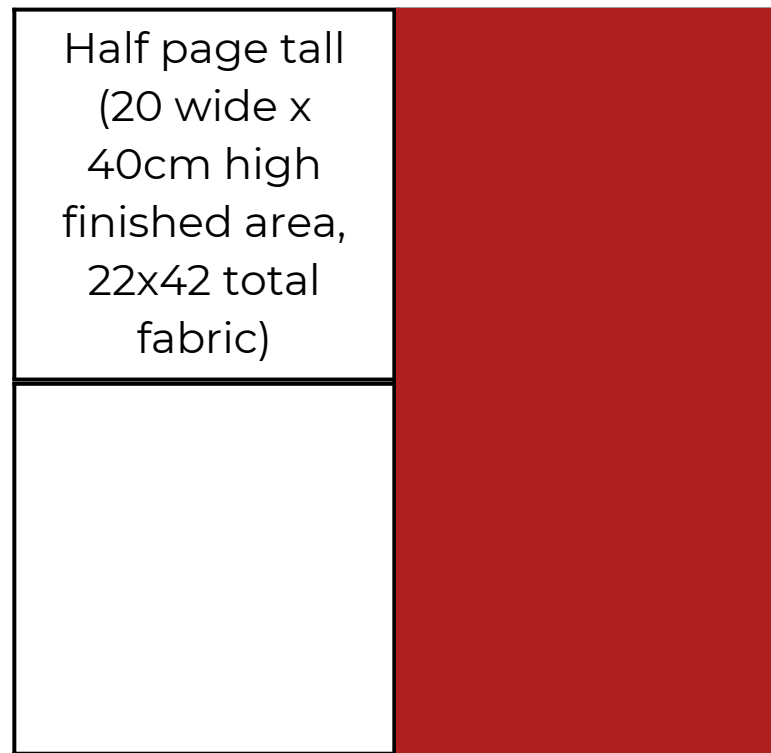
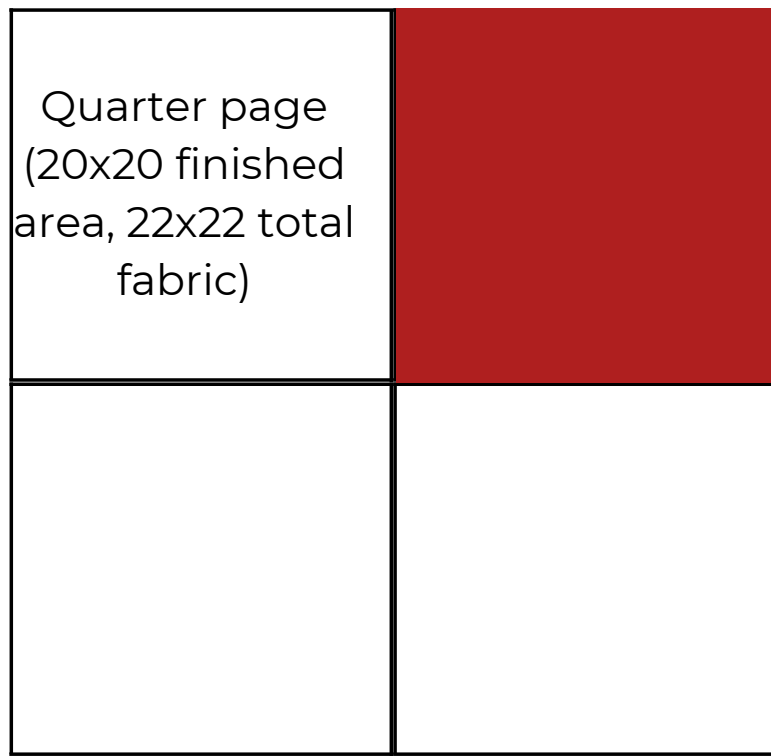
20cm

+ 1cm seam allowance  
on all sides!

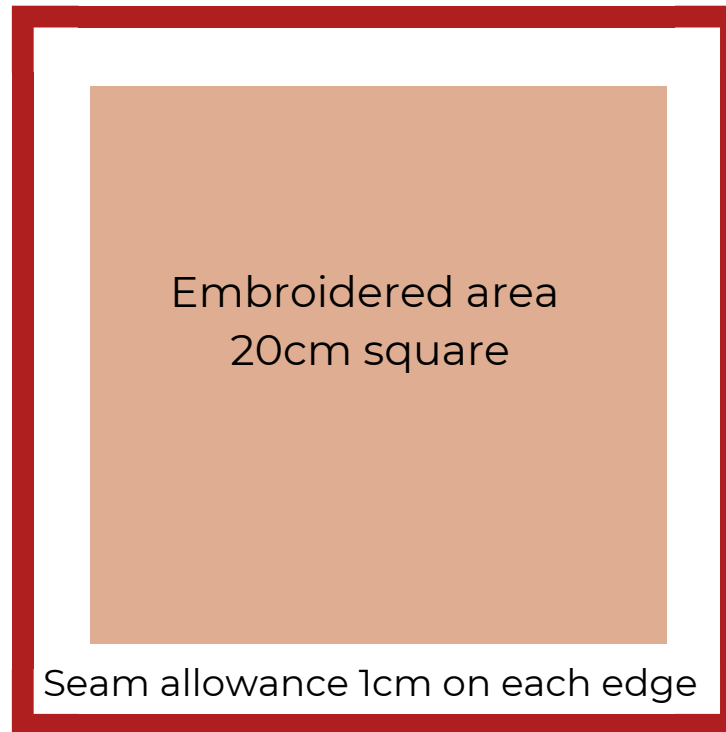
20cm

All of your pieces will be  
assembled into pages of a fabric  
book.

You can make a square (20x20 +  
seam allowances) or half a page or  
a full page. Please make sure the  
finished embroidered area is no  
more than the sizes requested,  
plus the seam allowances.



You can make a  
quarter,  
half or full page





When your work is complete, please email [marylinwoodproject@gmail.com](mailto:marylinwoodproject@gmail.com) to get the address to send it to. We will send you a sheet to include with your piece with all the information we need.

Please include your name as you would like it to appear in the exhibition - this can be first name, full name or business name.

In the current plan, your piece will NOT be returned as the fabric book will remain assembled and hopefully included in future exhibitions.