



May 15, 2011 Workshop

Shading with Thread: A Free Motion Machine Embroidery Workshop

Instructor: B.J. Adams

Date: Sunday, May 15, 2011

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Place: 343 Eighth Avenue, New York City

Cost: \$60.00

Sign up: Your check made out to *Empire Quilters* should be given or sent to **Mary Butler**. Email info@empirequilters.net if you need Mary's address.

More info: For more information about the workshop, or *Empire Quilters*, go to www.empirequilters.net. For more information about B.J. Adams, visit www.bjadamsart.com



The achievement of subtle changes in shading requires an understanding of thread colors and the way they interact. In this free-motion machine embroidery workshop led by B.J. Adams, participants will work with a variety of thread colors to obtain these combinations of desired shading. Light and shadows give shapes, form and depth in your artwork, the mist or haze in a landscape or sky can give way to explosive vibrancy at sunset, soft or hard edges of images, and rough or smooth textures can all be developed with the layering of thread colors. We will spend time working with blending thread colors to develop the gradations you need to give that subtle shading effect.

Supplies needed:

- A sewing machine with the ability to drop the feed dog and a darning foot.
- Appropriate needles for your machine. I prefer size 14 top stitch needles.
- Scissors for thread clipping.
- **Thread:** size 50 or 60 sewing machine threads. While I feel I never have enough thread colors, blending what I have on hand is the essence to shading, so don't plan to buy a lot of thread unless you need it. Choose one or two colors ranging, from very light to very dark. Include the grayed shades of your color choices, as well. While thread mixing and shading, several textures will be developed giving you a variety of experiments and samples for future images.

There are two ways for you to work with fabric:

- Use a hoop that fits under the foot of the machine, preferably a wood one with a screw to tighten the outer ring. Wrap the inner ring with strips of cotton. For working with a hoop bring plain white cotton fabric that isn't too light in weight ... muslin or something heavier will be fine.

OR

- If you have no hoop or prefer to work without one, bring heavy artist canvas or something similar, a yard is more than enough of any fabric you choose.