

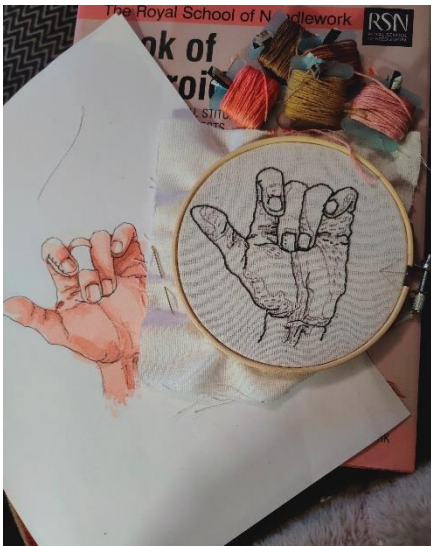
Dear Embroiderers,

My name is Lucy Burscough and I would like to invite you to play a part in creating an embroidered artwork which will be exhibited in the 'Dab Hands' exhibition at the wonderful Manchester Museum when it reopens after an extensive renovation in 2022. I am an artist and Dab Hands is a National Lottery/Arts Council England funded project which explores hands, dexterity and identity. You can read about the wider project at [www.lucysart.co.uk/dab-hands-intro](http://www.lucysart.co.uk/dab-hands-intro).



*One of Donald Sammut's anatomical drawings*

I am interested in creating an artwork that celebrates the skills and dexterity which are developed when one spends time doing craft activities and how they are reflected, both in movement and skill acquisition, in surgical practice. The project will be based upon the drawings of hand surgeon and artist, Mr Donald Sammut. Donald uses drawing in his medical practice to gain a greater understanding of his patients' specific difficulties and as a teaching aid for anatomy and surgical techniques. His beautiful drawings can be seen at [www.donaldsammut.com/portfolio](http://www.donaldsammut.com/portfolio).



*My embroidery of one of the drawings. Work in progress with outlines in backstitch. Note: this one didn't use an image printed onto the fabric*

How will the project work? If you are interested in being involved, please email me at [lucy@lucysart.co.uk](mailto:lucy@lucysart.co.uk) or give me a ring on 07901908006. I will need your address. I will then send you a 5" embroidery hoop which will have one of Donald's drawings printed onto the fabric using 'Sticky Fabri-Solvy', a stabiliser that can be dissolved away with water when the work is finished.

Included in the free kit will be everything that you need to complete the embroidery including a paper print of Donald's drawing and the embroidery flosses, needles and a threader. In terms of techniques or stitches, my only request is that you make a fine black outline over Donald's drawn lines using split stitch or backstitch.

When it comes to adding colour to the image, please use the flosses provided and your own choice of stitches. Don't feel that you have to cover every last bit of the drawing, if you feel that your image or stitch choice

doesn't call for it. If you would prefer to work on one of the simpler images, please let me know.

Please feel free to add a background pattern of your choice. Here, you can let your creativity take the lead! If you specialise in techniques such as goldwork or blackwork that require specific threads or beads, please let me know and I'll include them in your kit. A stamped addressed envelope will also be included, so that you can send the finished piece back to me at no cost to yourself.



*My embroidery of one of the drawings.  
Work in progress with some colour added  
using long and short stitch.*

Health care professionals and school groups will also be creating embroideries to be exhibited alongside your own. When I have received the returned work, they will be stitched together to create a 3D sculptural model of a hand, with the embroidered 'skin' illustrating the internal anatomy of the hand. I hope that you like that idea! Your names will be displayed alongside the sculpture (if you don't object to that-let me know if you would prefer not to be on the list).

Your involvement with the project would be much appreciated! If Covid allows, it may be possible to organise a special visit to Manchester Museum and/or The Whitworth Art Gallery to look at examples of embroidery

that they have in their collections and have a chat over some tea and cake while we're there. I do hope that you decide to be part of the Dab Hands project! I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Lucy Burscough