

Mounting, Framing and Hanging Your Work - Juanita Sauve - Presentation 2015

Mounting an Art 'Quilt' On a Stretched Canvas

My favourite way of mounting my finished work is with a stretched canvas. I have different ways of accomplishing this.

First I complete my piece - making a quilt sandwich with thin batting or felt in the middle and fabric on the back of my artwork. I assemble by fusing with Mistyfuse (you can use WonderUnder or Steam a Seam II Lite) and/or quilting the layers together (I don't always quilt my piece). Then I zigzag stitch the edges. I mount it on a canvas of the same size or larger (if the canvas is larger I will paint the part that shows), gluing it down to the canvas using weldbond glue. If glue is spread well, it doesn't seep through the layers (don't leave big globs of glue or they might leak through to the front). If I don't want to risk putting glue on the back of my piece or if I might want to remove the work from the canvas later on, I first hand stitch a piece of felt to the back of the piece (including a few carefully placed stitches in the centre) then glue the felt to the stretched canvas.

I paint the edges appropriately. You can also cover the edges with scrunched up tissue and paint over that. In another piece I cut up bits of relevant newspaper articles and glued to the edges with gel medium. With landscapes I sometimes continue the landscape around the edges of the canvas with acrylic paint. Another way is to take your finished art work and zigzag it to a larger piece of fabric which you wrap around the canvas and staple on to the back. I fold each corner carefully cutting away excess material so it won't look bulky. The fabric becomes part of the piece sometimes just showing at the edges other times showing around the piece itself.

If you choose to mount your piece onto a canvas that is larger than the piece, you can easily stitch it down to the canvas. There are lots of alternatives to mounting work on stretched canvas. You can use a deeper gallery canvas and paint the edges. You can also pop your stretched canvas into a floating frame which I have done for a more finished look. I have also placed my work inside the back of a stretched canvas and covered the wooden edges with fabric for a different look. I always make sure I have a label glued to the back of the canvas with title, my name, size, techniques and inspiration. I will sign my piece with thread on the front right bottom and try to weave the signature into the piece.

When finished I add a hanging wire to the back. Every show has different requirements about what to use and where to place the wire etc so it is best to check with them.

Hanging an Art Quilt without a Frame

I have an easy way to hang a quilt using a fabric sleeve, a wood slat and two finishing nails. I saw this method online many years ago.

Once the quilt is finished (look on the internet for a wealth of information about adding bindings and finishing methods), I hand sew a sleeve to the back near the top of the quilt making sure to make it slightly smaller than the quilt width (instructions for making a sleeve can be found on the internet too). I cut the slat to size, a little longer than the sleeve but shorter than the width of the quilt and I drill a small hole near each end for the finishing nails. You can measure on the wall with the slat itself to find where to put the nails using a small level. Then slide the slat through the sleeve, place over the nail heads already in the wall, and voila it's done! And it can be removed and replaced quite easily. I buy the wood wherever molding is sold – approx. 1" wide by 1/4" thick (as thin as possible) and cut to size. A flat slat tends to hang better than a round one. You can add a bottom sleeve if the piece isn't hanging flat or add weights to the bottom.

For shows you can string fishing line through the holes for hanging. Some big shows just require the sleeve. For very small pieces I have even used washers on the back to hook over a nail or picture hangers or string with fishing line.

Don't forget your label on the back and signature on the front.

A Couple of Tips for Small Embroideries or Stitched Pieces

I often frame my embroideries and smaller art works with a mat. If I don't frame my tiny embroideries (3 x 3", 5" x 5" or 4" x 6" etc) behind a mat, I may zigzag the edges and mount it to the front of an uncut mat before framing. In fact I usually try to finish the small ones just like the larger pieces with 3 thin layers zigzagged together for a more finished look. Sometimes I will place it in a shadow box and either glue or stitch it down. I like that it doesn't flatten down the texture of the embroidery.

I usually sign framed pieces on the mat with pencil.

NOTE: There is lots of info on the internet for finishing, mounting and hanging fibre art or sewing sleeves.