



WEN REDMOND'S DIGITAL FIBER ART: COMBINE PHOTOS AND FABRIC, CREATE YOUR OWN MIXED-MEDIA MASTERPIECE

by Wen Redmond

C&T Publishing, 1651 Challenge Drive,

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Although the word *digital* is very prominent on the cover of this book, don't judge this book only by the cover. *Wen Redmond's Digital Fiber Art* is really an encyclopedia of surface design and mixed media collage techniques. Redmond's process involves layering many kinds of textures and images, including digital ones, but it isn't limited to photo editing on your computer. If you aren't tech savvy, this book isn't going to help you learn how to use Photoshop. The digital editing chapters are packed with ideas and inspiration; they show many examples of the effects you may achieve if you are willing to experiment and explore, but the focus is not on providing step-by-step instructions.

Throughout the book you'll find sections that are labeled "Process." These sections are really interesting and instructive. Each shows a work in progress that is broken out into its components, highlighting the individual techniques that went into the final artwork and showing how each layer builds on the previous one. The chapters tend to introduce a set of techniques and then follow with several of these "Process" and "Example" sections to help readers see several ways the techniques can be implemented. This format gives a really great sense of not only the technique but also an explanation of why and how you might want to use it.

The technical aspects of printing on various substrates are not covered in detail. Because of printer and software differences, the focus is specific to learning how to print images using the tools and materials on hand. The book gives guidelines and advice for how to work with challenging materials like thick paper or non-porous surfaces and includes a lot of information about products and pre-coats that can help with colorfastness and ink bleed. There is no right way to execute any of these techniques, and I think the book does a great job of guiding readers toward finding the way that works for them.

The book wraps up with a section about displaying and mounting work. I would love to see even more on this topic because I think it can be a real challenge for fiber artists. Included in this section are detailed instructions for a clever holographic mounting process, which is a nice complement to the other techniques presented in the book.

Reviewed by Becka Rahn

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