



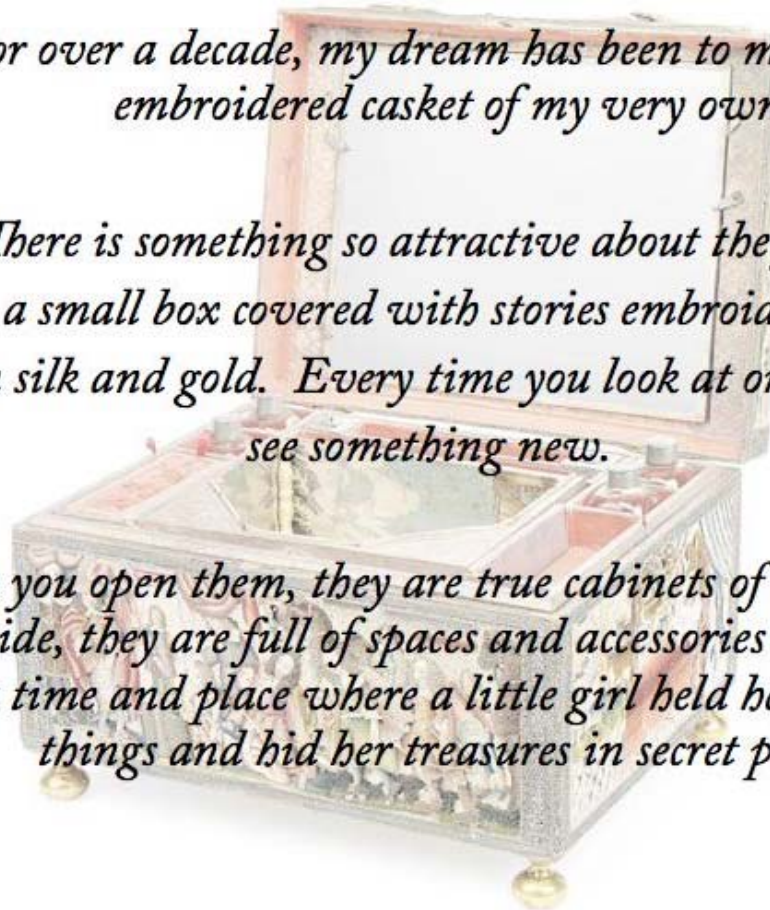
*The Embroidered
Cabinet of Curiosities*

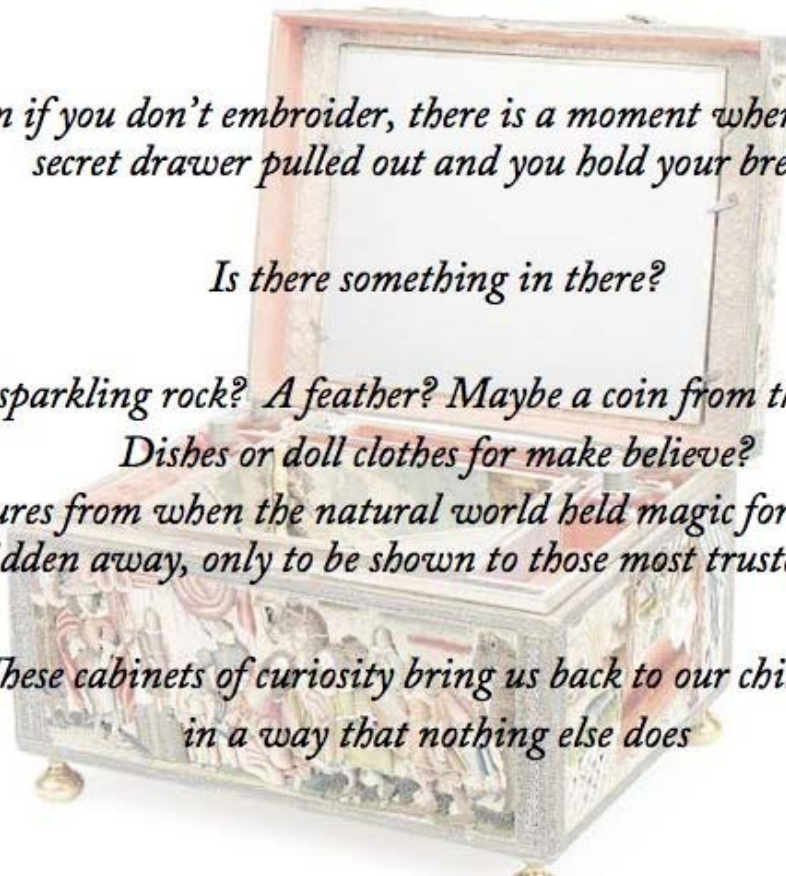
*This Time, You Get to Own
The Story...*

For over a decade, my dream has been to make an embroidered casket of my very own.

There is something so attractive about the form: a small box covered with stories embroidered in silk and gold. Every time you look at one, you see something new.

When you open them, they are true cabinets of curiosities. Inside, they are full of spaces and accessories that evoke a time and place where a little girl held her special things and hid her treasures in secret places.





Even if you don't embroider, there is a moment when you see a secret drawer pulled out and you hold your breath...

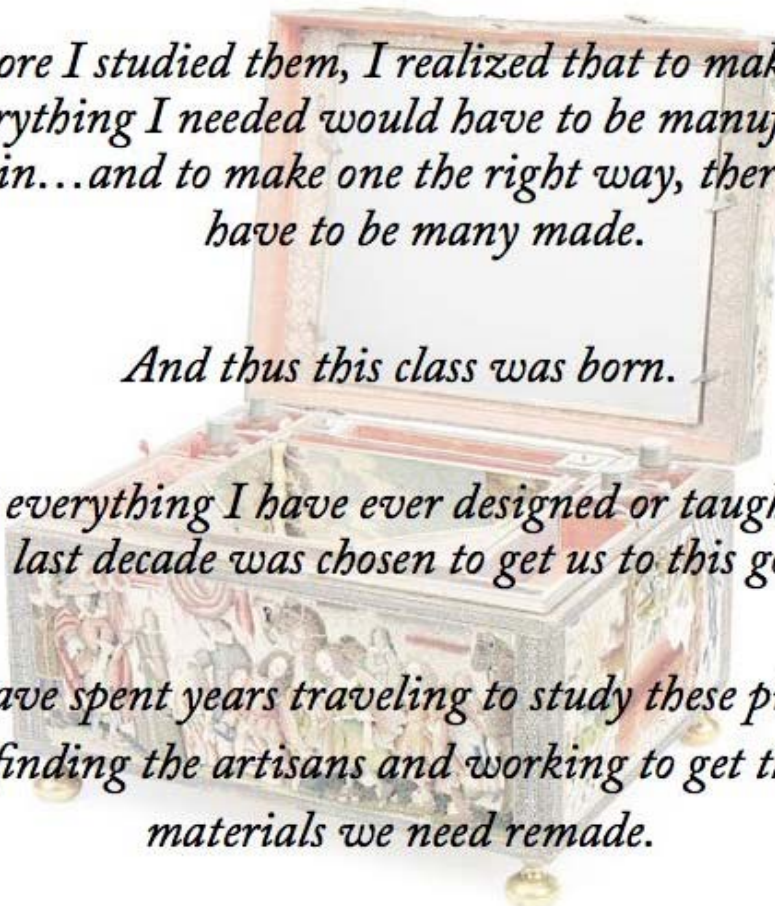
Is there something in there?

A sparkling rock? A feather? Maybe a coin from the past?

Dishes or doll clothes for make believe?

Treasures from when the natural world held magic for us. Things hidden away, only to be shown to those most trusted friends.

These cabinets of curiosity bring us back to our childhood in a way that nothing else does



The more I studied them, I realized that to make them, everything I needed would have to be manufactured again...and to make one the right way, there would have to be many made.

And thus this class was born.

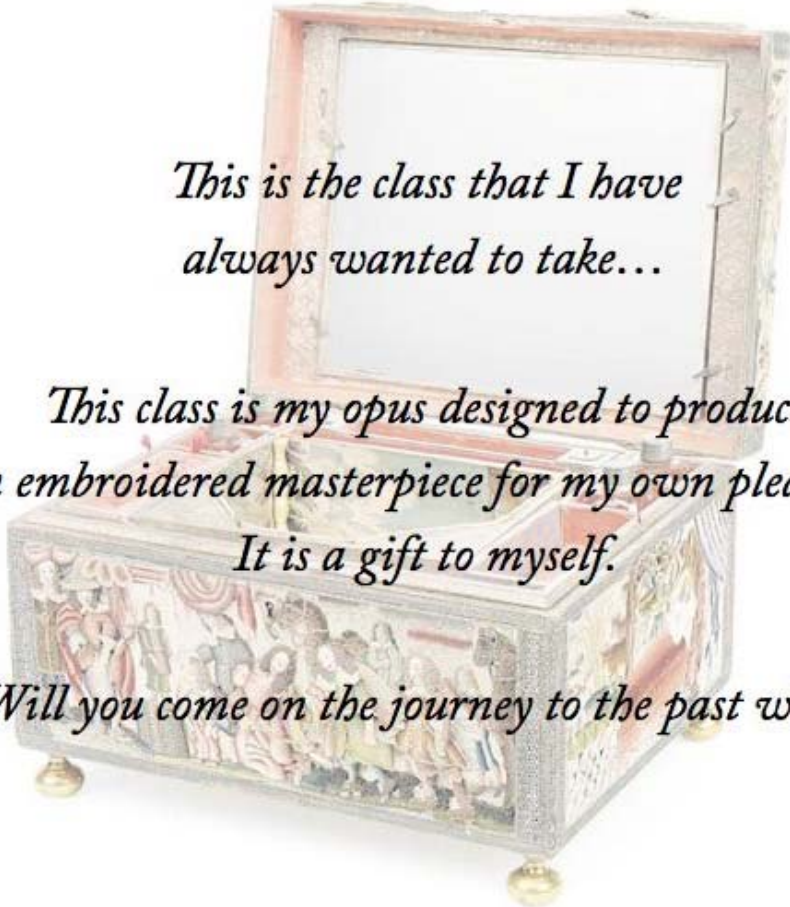
Almost everything I have ever designed or taught for the last decade was chosen to get us to this goal.

I have spent years traveling to study these pieces, finding the artisans and working to get the materials we need remade.

The wait is over, we are finally ready to start

Spring 2012



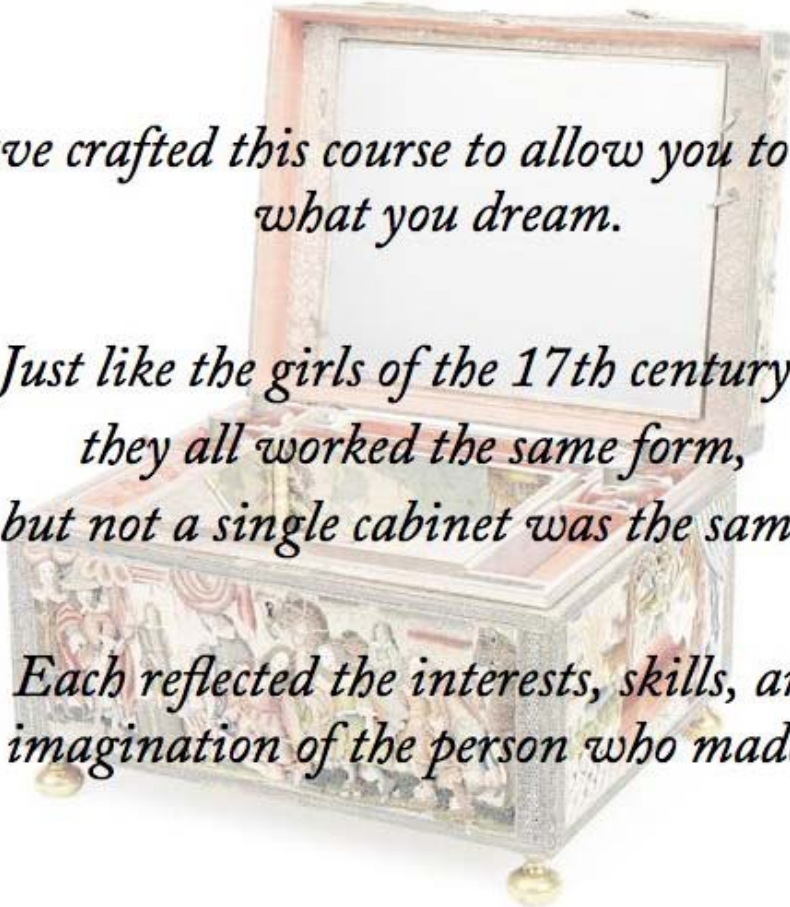


*This is the class that I have
always wanted to take...*

*This class is my opus designed to produce
an embroidered masterpiece for my own pleasure.*

It is a gift to myself.

Will you come on the journey to the past with me?



*I have crafted this course to allow you to make
what you dream.*

*Just like the girls of the 17th century -
they all worked the same form,
but not a single cabinet was the same.*

*Each reflected the interests, skills, and
imagination of the person who made it.*

What will the journey look like?

Two independent 18-month courses to study embroidered caskets, design your own, meet the artisans past and present who made the materials, and learn the techniques needed to make what you imagine.


A new online store with an extensive and never seen historic line of reproduction silk and metal threads, wooden casket forms, hardware, metal tapes, and finishing materials (opening in mid-2012).



Why Two Classes?

After studying caskets for a decade, I realized that only a fraction of them were embellished with stumpwork. Most were worked in techniques that were low relief and were achievable by every embroiderer.

I wanted to present my casket course so anyone could make this very personal treasure.



So if you prefer needlepoint, counted techniques, satin stitch, or beadwork - you only need Part 1 to make your casket.

But if your dream is stumpwork, you will take the design, techniques, and finishing in Part I and then add Part II to explore all the elements in detached glory.

Why is the box separate?

This is to be your dream piece – a gift to yourself, but it must also fit in your budget. There were many forms of caskets, some less expensive to reproduce than others.

I am providing a choice between two boxes, each replicas of historic pieces but at very different price points.

During Part I, we will explore how to design for each box and go over the costs of all the materials needed to finish each box shape so you can make an educated choice on which to embroider.

What will the boxes cost?

I have learned that wooden furniture is not based on the cost of the wood or size, but on the number of pieces that have to be cut to make up the object.

The flat top casket has 51 pieces, the slope top has 134.

They each include period hardware molded off original casket hardware, reproduction interior materials made for this course and working locks based on period designs.

And Secret Drawers!

I wish I could answer this question today, but the reproduction of many of the parts are still in process

The work on the wooden parts is done, but the locks, handmade papers, bookbinding stamps, and other amazing details are still in process.

*The boxes will be ordered once a year
and can be paid for on an installment plan*



Casket Course - Part I

Part I will be an 18-month class which combines an extensive history, detailed pictures of dozens of caskets, design work, and three small projects. It is designed to teach all the techniques needed to make seventy percent of the historic caskets in collections.

Let's go through each of these topics...



Design

The first four months will explore

Casket shapes and interiors

Themes and stories used on historic caskets

Choosing your theme

Choosing color, threads and techniques

Stock designs for each casket shape

based on the historic stories will be provided

*Designing your own story using templates and provided
elements taken from historic pieces will also be taught*

Projects and Techniques

There will be three projects in the class to try each of the techniques presented that could be used on your casket. These techniques and projects will form the basis of the middle months of the course. These pieces are inspired by small trinkets that were found in period cabinets and small embroidery covered boxes that also reside in museum collections.

We will try three different ground materials so you can see what you prefer

A pincushion with counted techniques worked on satin silk

A small scissors holder shaped like a glove using canvas work

A trinket box covered with different casket techniques on all sides. This box will also be used to practice how to construct, line, and mount your embroidery before you work your larger piece.



Casket Finishing

The last six months of the course will cover how to line and cover the boxes, install hardware and all the details like marbled paper, mirrors, silver embossed paper and woven silver tape

All of the subjects will be supplemented by extensive history sections using photos of historic pieces from multiple museum and private collections.

Subjects will also include the other material culture pieces needed for the boxes such as the joinery, hardware, locks, hand-blown bottles, silver embossed papers, and many others.



Kit Contents Part I

Your mailings will include:

Two carefully crafted, historical lines of Au Ver a Soie Soie Ovale and Soie d'Paris. These are special dye lots for this course.

Each line has over 30 spools each

Silk Purl in the historic color line

Stitchable Silk Gimp in the historic color line

In addition to the silk based threads, you will receive any other materials needed to complete the three projects. This will include things such as the small wooden box, silk fabrics, marbled paper, hardware, silk velvet, and silver tape.

Casket Course - Part II

After Part I, you will be ready to make a wonderful casket. But if your dream includes lots of stumprwork, then Part II is available for you.

Part II will not have any projects as I assume that you are already working on your personal casket design.

Part II will be 18-months and start as soon as Part I is finished.


What does it cover?

The course will cover the individual elements most often seen on the caskets (animals, birds, trees, castles, tents, people, grottos, etc) using pictures of historic pieces to show the variety of ideas that can be applied. Over 1,000 detailed historic pictures have been licensed for this course.

Stumpwork techniques will be introduced during each subject

The course will include an extensive package of threads and unique materials needed for stumpwork. Most of these threads are being specially manufactured for this class and haven't been available in our lifetime...

Forms for fruit, glass eyes, looped metal trim and other exciting things you have seen and wanted



*Now that you know how we will travel this
journey to our own embroidered caskets,
will you join me?*

Our story begins here...