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The Fabric of Protest



MORE IN COMMON

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April 2021

A monthly textile workshop by People's History Museum (PHM) and artist Helen Mather. Learn new techniques and discuss the issues that matter to you.

This resource introduces some of the ideas and techniques that will be explored during the online session on Saturday 24 April 2021.

Use it to prepare for the session or as inspiration for your own textile projects.

Recommended for 11+ (under 18s must have an accompanying adult present during the session).

#FabricOfProtest

phm.org.uk



The More in Common project and exhibition are part of CultureLabs, receiving funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



Jo Cox Memorial Wall, More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox exhibition at People's History Museum

This month we will be taking inspiration from the Jo Cox Memorial Wall that will be on display in the More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox exhibition at People's History Museum from Wednesday 19 May 2021 to Sunday 10 October 2021.

The memorial wall was installed outside parliament following her death, for people to express their thoughts, grief and tributes.

The wall is constructed from four medium-density fibreboard (MDF) panels supported by wooden struts; 4,000mm wide x 2,400mm high. The writing on the wall is a mix of pen, crayon and lipstick. It includes A4 laminated papers and other decorations like a banner and a scarf.

There will also be a digital version of the memorial wall, The Wall of Hope. The Wall of Hope will be a place online for people to add their tributes, stories and messages of hope.

We will create a stitched message for the Wall of Hope, reflecting on what More in Common means to each of us.

More in Common Project



Inspired by the legacy of Jo Cox MP, PHM's More in Common project involves a group of over 30 people from different backgrounds who made Manchester their home, coming together to share knowledge, experiences, and conversations.

Co-created by the project group, the More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox exhibition explores Jo's life and legacy and follows the group on their journey in celebrating our commonality and challenging discrimination. Inspired by Jo's words, 'We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us'.



Find out more

Use the links below to find out more about the More in Common project and the Jo Cox Foundation.

PHM More in Common project

<https://phm.org.uk/exhibitions/more-in-common-in-memory-of-jo-cox/>

More in Common from Jo Cox Foundation

<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org>

Stitched Messages

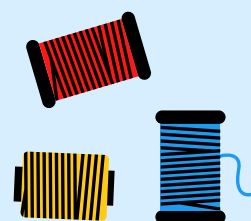
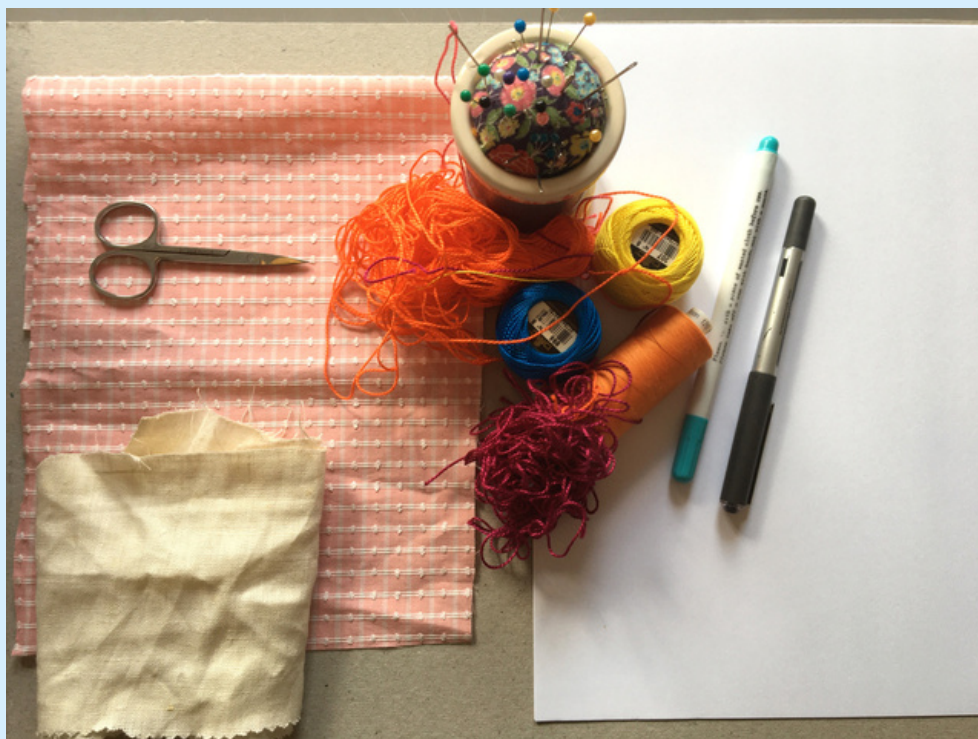
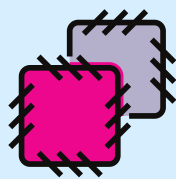
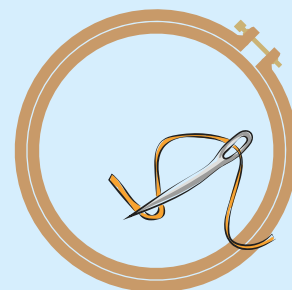


In this month's session we will be making our own stitched messages to put onto the Wall of Hope. These could be quotes from activists, thinkers, songs, poets, or from your own words.

We will be using a technique called couching to stitch the words onto cloth and adding decoration from our everyday lives.

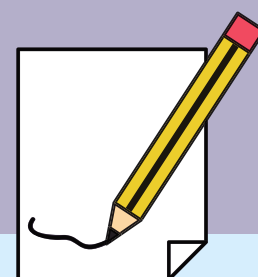
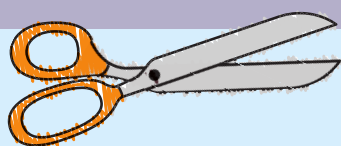
The Jo Cox memorial wall is our focus point, thinking about the words and ideas that motivated Jo Cox MP in striving for a fairer, kinder and more united society.

Materials



Gather some materials from around your home.
You will need:

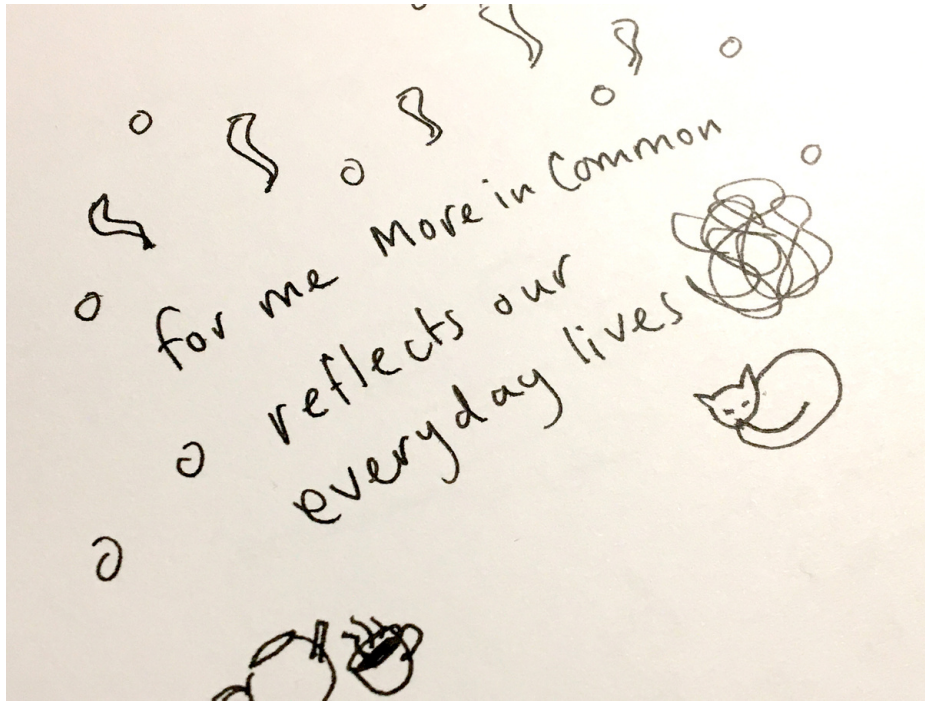
- Paper and pen
- Fabric (and fabric scraps for sampling in the workshop)
- Embroidery thread: thinner is better
- Needles: two
- Embroidery hoop if you have one
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil for marking on the fabric



Prepare



What does 'More in Common' mean to you?



1

Think about what 'More in Common' means to you. This could be something in your own words, a quote from an activist or thinker, or even a song or poem.

On a piece of paper, write out your quote or message as you would stitch it on your fabric.

Add some motifs, these could be things that help illustrate your message (such as music notes for a song) or just decoration.

You might like to check out artist Tilleke Schwarz, who uses couching and everyday common things in her work.

<https://www.62group.org.uk/artist/tilleke-schwarz/>

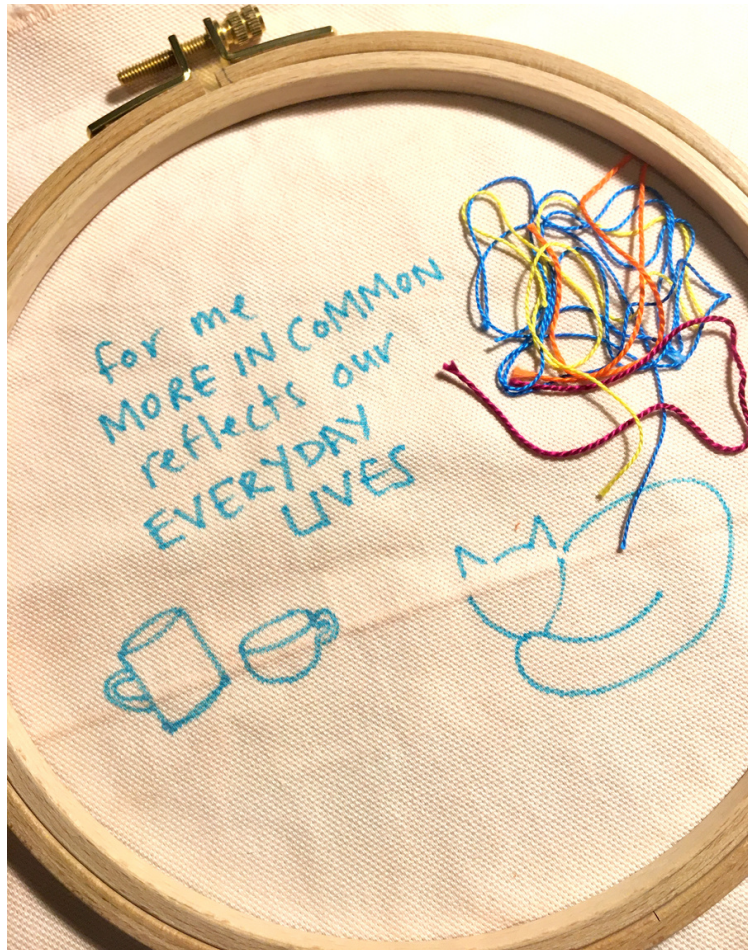
Getting Started



2

Take a piece of fabric large enough for your message and decoration.

Write your message on the fabric using a pen or pencil, something that you can go over with stitches. An erasable marking pen would be perfect if you have one.

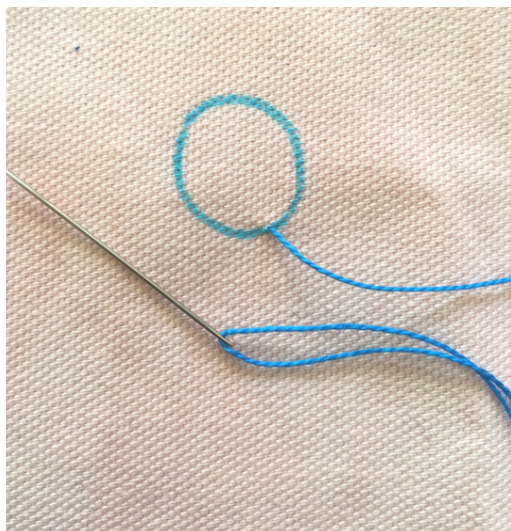


If you have an embroidery hoop you might find it useful to use but don't worry if not.

Stitching: couching method

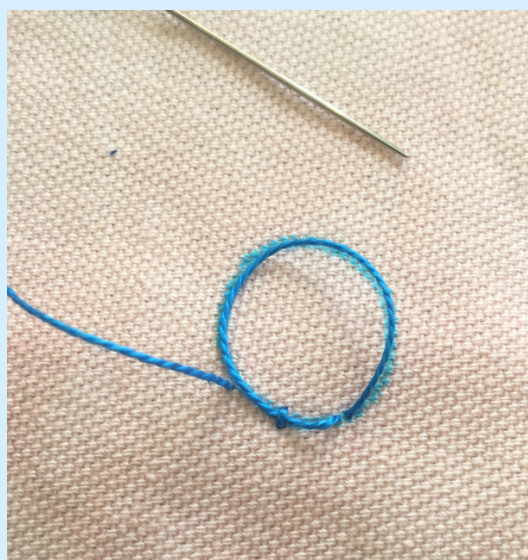


3 You are now ready to stitch. Couching is a method of stitching where thread is laid in a shape and securing by loops that are stitched over the top of the thread.



Bring your needle up to start and bring it down at the end of the shape you are stitching. You will need to lay the thread over the shape to follow the line as much as possible, pulling your thread out or in depending on how well it matches.

4



When you are happy with how the thread is laid, bring your needle up a stitch-length away (depending on the size of the line you are making this could be halfway down, or where there is a curve).

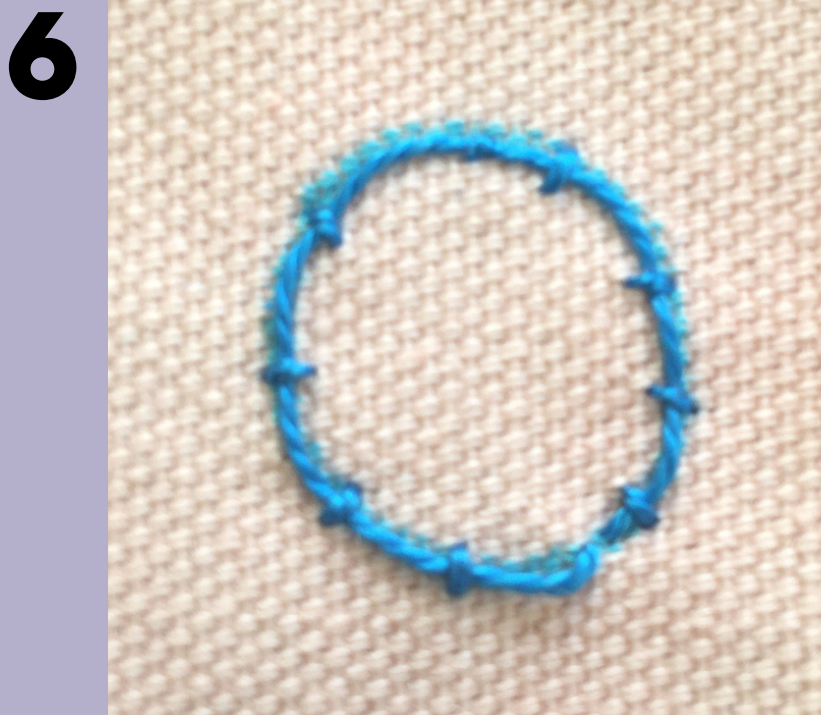
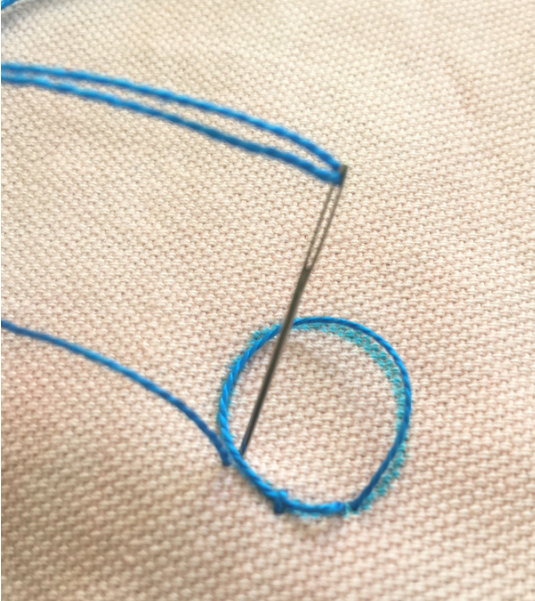
Make sure not to pull the thread too much as this will distort your shape.



Show your Threads



- 5** Take your needle over the thread laid on the shape and bring it down, creating a loop over the thread which will secure it into position.



Continue to do this over your thread to secure into shape.

You can use this technique for words as well as images, continuing to stitch until your message with motifs is finished.

Join us on Zoom to get creative

If you would like to join artist Helen Mather and others to stitch, chat and share ideas inspired by this resource, [book onto the online Zoom session.](#)

Don't forget to bring a cuppa!

This month we'll be online on
Saturday 24 April 2021,
2.00pm - 3.30pm.



Share what you have created!

We would love to see what you have created!

If you use social media, please share photos of your creations using #FabricOfProtest.



Or if you prefer you can email a photo of your creation to learning@phm.org.uk.



@PHMMcr



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