

EMBROIDERY IN FASHION

By Frances Park

WHAT IS EMBROIDERY?

Embroidery can refer to any technique that adds a design to a textile using stitches. Oftentimes embroidery just uses thread, but it can also involve beading, sequins, wires, pearls, or other additional materials. Some types of embroidery actually shift the threads of the weave or cut away parts of the textile, in order to create holes and shapes.



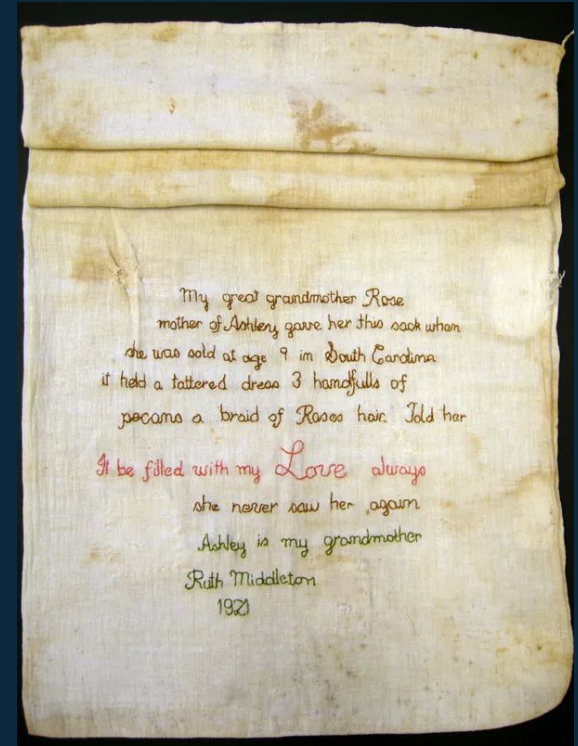
“Punto tagliato” (Italian for
“cut point”) embroidery

WHAT IS EMBROIDERY?

Embroidery is both a practical and cultural art form: it can be used to strengthen thin textiles or as a decorative stitch when mending fabric, but it can also be used to pass down stories, events, names, symbols, traditions, and other parts of culture, history, and identity.



Boro Japanese
patchwork with
sashiko stitching



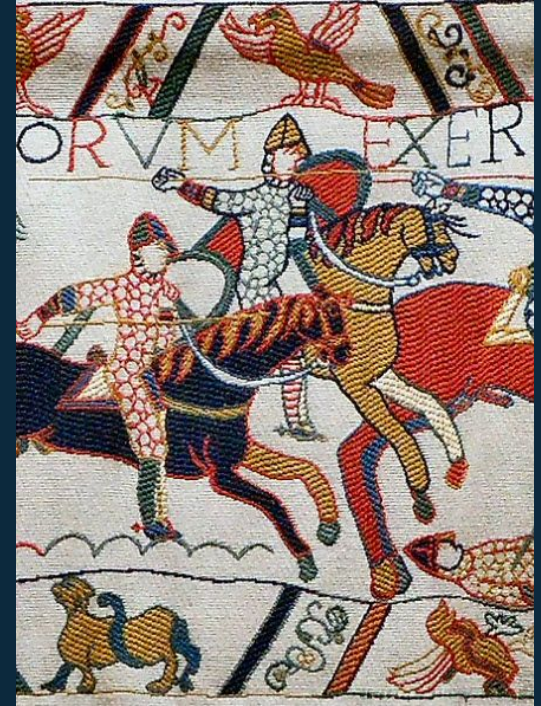
Ruth Middleton embroidered the story of her enslaved grandmother, Ashley, on the sack that was Ashley's mother's parting gift.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF EMBROIDERY

Embroidery has been found as far back in history as 30,000 BC! In what is now Russia, archaeologists found a hunter with hand-stitched rows of beadwork on his clothing.

Many different embroidery traditions and techniques have been found across the globe.

During different time periods and in different places, embroidery has been seen as a symbol of status, wealth, and luxury, or an art form open to anyone. In recent centuries in the Western world, it has been seen as an especially domestic and feminine art. In reality, though, it has been used by all types of people in all spheres of life throughout history, and this continues today.



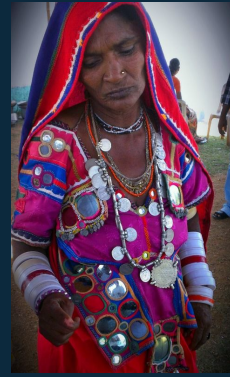
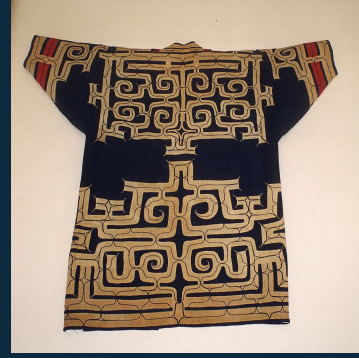
The Bayeux Tapestry, a 70-meter embroidered depiction of the Norman Conquest

(BRIEF)
HISTORICAL & CONTEMPORARY
CULTURAL EXAMPLES OF
EMBROIDERY

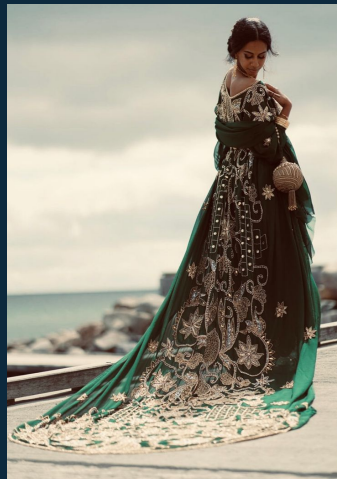
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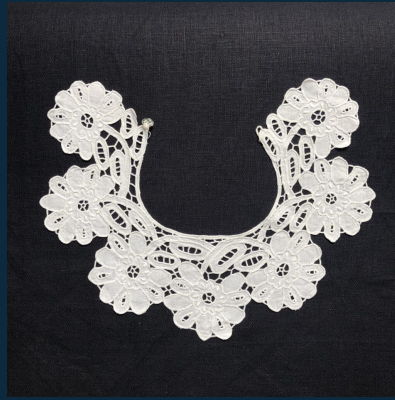
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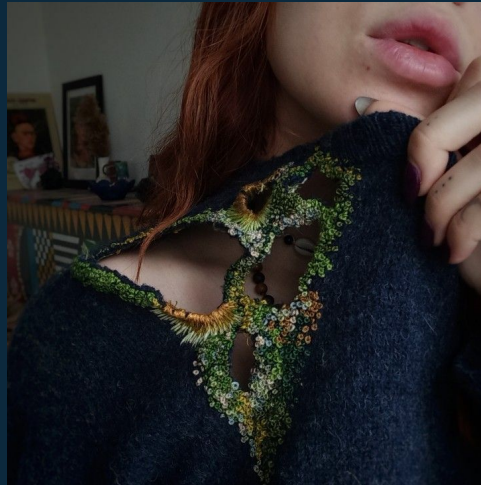
EMBROIDERY IN HAUTE COUTURE

Embroidery is frequently used in haute couture to create intricately detailed designs and affix smaller materials, like sequins, cording, or jewels.



EMBROIDERY IN FASHION TODAY

Machine embroidery (and the help of computers to create designs) have made it possible to mass-produce embroidery, and it's commonly seen on jackets, hats, and other casual/street wear. Hand embroidery to embellish existing garments of clothing in a personalized, DIY way has also seen a resurgence in recent years.



**THANK YOU FOR
WATCHING!**