

May 4th - 5th

Title: Boro Sampler and Boro Bags

Instructor: Jody Alexander

Description: Boro is a word used to describe Japanese textiles that have been pieced, patched, repaired and passed down from generation to generation. Boro textiles are utilitarian objects that are rich and sumptuous and that, although old in age, possess a contemporary aesthetic. In this workshop we will make a textile sampler and a Japanese style bag that contain this Boro aesthetic. Students will begin by learning stitching, patching and mending techniques that are specific to Boro textiles and create a small sampler on the first afternoon. On day two we will continue our exploration of Boro mending techniques on a larger piece of cloth that will be made into an ingenious Japanese style bag at the end of the day.

Students are also welcome to bring an item that needs mending if they would like. This workshop is appropriate for beginners wanting to learn stitching or experienced artists and makers wanting to incorporate a new aesthetic into their work.

The instructor will bring:

- her collection of Japanese boro textiles for inspiration
- cloth for the sampler
- cloth for the boro bag (12 x 36 cotton/linen blend)
- scraps of fabric for patching
- purl cotton thread
- misc extra supplies

Students should bring:

- small pieces of fabric for patching to make their projects unique to them
- variety of threads
- variety of needles to fit your threads
- pins
- scissors
- pencil and paper for note taking

Optional for students to bring:

- 12 x 36 piece of fabric for the bag if there is a specific fabric you would like to use
- a garment to mend in your spare time (particularly if you are a fast worker!)
- sewing machine to assemble the bag (it would be nice to have a few in the room for class use)