

Carrying on with the theme of embroidering cities and urban landscapes, my time in Berlin involved working on a small hoop depicting the general area I was staying in, New Tempelhof. Creating a sort of diary based on a place and time can be very fun. A little souvenir. Starting with a white fabric, I stitched the general outlines of roads, pavements, most visible from Google Maps satellite view. The way the streets are laid out looks fascinating when translated into lines. Berlin is an amazing city, from my experience of walking around, looking at the architecture. A birds-eye view is unique and exciting to work with because it only appears in certain places, deep in urban planning city archives or from an aeroplane window seat. It's not an everyday thing, maybe something you might notice when navigating the city through your preferred maps app, and that's what I mainly used as a tourist, so noticing these interesting patterns and lines inspired what I wanted to embroider.

Shades of green represent the general sense of nature and the stable, clever planning of the general neighbourhood, harmony. I used different thicknesses of thread to represent the varied buildings and elevations in the area, to imply detail in the landscape. Wildly contrasted by the area of embroidery on the right of the fabric, representing Tempelhof field/park. I embroidered a chaotic flat compilation of stitches to show the ever-changing number of things going on there. During my time there, a small music performance, multiple birthday picnics, and extremely cool roller skaters filling up the park. All represented through lines that show movement, colour and a general sense of randomness and fun. Almost no green is used in the area that is supposed to represent a park, which feels very ironic because it's what this park (and most parks) have the most of but I think since that is already expected, it would be better to focus on the unique features. The intention and transformation of a space by people rather than the nature that lives and exists there. Creating designs that focus on the cultural aspect of a space because it is a city first. A neighbourhood inside a city. One thing is overwhelmed and affected by another. The left side of the embroidery in that case is the opposite, and the green means something entirely different through its unconventional use and disuse, creating a dynamic suggestive of themes.

This embroidery helped me understand what I can do with fairly simple stitches, as I tend to use only overly complicated ones, not always to the benefit of my designs. Over the course of my trip, I listened to the feedback about my art, and the details people appreciated were ones I thought everyone would overlook. That made me feel very inspired as it feels like I am free to work in any direction that I want with my future projects.

Red is a colour in my embroidery that represents something unique and personal, something I add as a final touch. This time, as a line representing where I physically walked and wandered around in Berlin, as well as where my eyes focused when looking out the window/balcony of the building I was staying in, scenery that fascinated me in person. Embroidered with a tambour hook, a different tool to differentiate the perspective physically from the needle. A smaller variation of chain stitch with a different tool. There are so many ways that meaning can be applied and taken away to create an effect in design and because embroidery is so tied to its tools and mediums and methods, these intentions are evermore apparent.