

Billie's Threads
Embellishments of Quilting

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Well, the time has come for the embellishments of quilting. I have no clue where to begin, because it is an old time tradition. Yes, it is, it began with crazy quilting. Now, from my reading in history of quilting, it was those ladies that could afford the luxury of silks, sateen's, velvet etc. The women that had the time to do the fancy stitching with the silk threads and ribbons needed something to do! It was a way for her to keep her hands busy while she watched her servants do the work. Crazy quilting isn't as popular as it was in the late 1800's but it is there but in a different venue.

In today's world you also have to have a little money to keep up with this embellishment world. Yes, you can go to the chain stores and buy ribbons, buttons, and beads. You have the World Wide Web to shop and explore. But it does take the extra funds to do such an art. Time...who has that? Well, evidently a lot of people do have the time and money. If you walk through an arts/craft store they even make special totes for you to travel with your compartmental little (big) tote bag. Now, as with a crazy quilt, these projects are not for using. They are to decorate your chair or wall to let you show your talents.

Where do you locally find the embellishments that you want? I went into a yarn shop and bought several balls of thread thick like yard but dyed with embellished threads. Just add it to your quilt top, appliqué it down especially with the variegated threads to match, or even better yet, get the beads out to explore the sparkle of your piece. It makes wonderful designs for ribbon flowers. It's just not embroidery floss anymore!! Beads from the bead shop or now even some quilt shops carry these products, along with the textures in fabric.

If you know anything after watching Martha Stewart these days, or HGTV-DIY, you know that felting projects is big right now. In fact I have my sister making me a felt purse...the look is wonderful. My sister crochet's and knits...I quilt. Yes, can felting be explored in our quilting process...why not? The world of quilting can manage just about anything you want.

Stop by your local quilt shop or check out Yahoo groups and join in the fun of embellishments! The art world is waiting for you.

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