

HMONG HEARTS

September 2003

Design Inspiration

This jacket was designed for the Heartfelt – Art from the Heart contest. I chose to showcase heart-shaped embroidery designs inspired by Hmong textiles. The arrangement of the embroidery on the Asian-style jacket mimics the typical border designs seen on many Hmong garments. There is a subtle contrast in texture between the main jacket fabric and that of the embroidered bands. This garment continues my series of ethnic-inspired designs adapted to a modern look. The briefcase-style bag showcases two smaller embroidered panels that were left over from test stitch-outs.

Fabrics

Jacket and bag: Polyester suiting, silk shantung.

Embellishments

Jacket and bag: Machine embroidery designs from Hmong Designs by Laura's Sewing Studio and decorative machine stitching, both with rayon machine embroidery thread, piping, hand-made frogs.

Patterns

Jacket: Butterick 3927.

Bag: original design.

Special Sewing Techniques

Several embroidery designs have been combined with editing software to produce a large, complex border. The jacket pattern has been adjusted to ensure that the pattern repeats in the border will fit exactly in the space available. The jacket is partially constructed and then the silk shantung bands are interfaced, embroidered and applied to the jacket. The edges of the embroidered bands have been further embellished with an additional narrow embroidered border that uses a geometrical machine-stitched pattern. The frogs are adapted from techniques to make Chinese ball buttons. The bag is constructed with piped seams to give a crisp finish.

Exhibitions and Awards

2nd place, Heartfelt – Art from the Heart Contest, October 2003.

Grand prize winner, Stitches Machine Embroidery Challenge, February-November 2005.