



MINI CHALLENGE 2026
by Penny Dowdell

PAINTING

I love combining paint with embroidery to create imaginative and unusual mixed media pieces! This week's design is inspired by long summer days and peaceful creativity!



THE PATTERN

This pattern, when printed onto A4 paper, will fit a 3" hoop.

Stitch the black lines in black perle thread, size 12.

This week I've not stitched the outer circle, but you can if you prefer to!



STITCH GUIDE

Easel

433: split back stitch
ECRU fastening: satin stitch

Palette

ECRU base: satin stitch
Paint blobs: french knots

Artist

All split back stitch
437 hair
951 skin
ECRU shirt
3051 trousers
433 & 437 sandals



Background

In my embroidery, I've not stitched the background, but you might want to with a scene that reflects the art you've painted, or anything you like!

DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 433 (dark brown)
- DMC 437 (pale brown)
- DMC ECRU (pale beige)
- DMC 3051 (dark green)
- DMC 951 (pale peach)

Feel free to change the skin and hair colours! (951 & 437)

For the paint blobs on the palette, use scraps of spare thread which reflect the colours of the artwork you've painted!

Stitch with THREE strands of thread.

STITCH TIPS



VERY IMPORTANT: Paint the artwork FIRST, so that if anything goes wrong you haven't stitched anything yet! You can use watercolour, acrylic, or gouche. Here, I've used undiluted watercolours.



Stitch the palette base, then add french knot 'paint blobs' which reflect the colours of the artwork you've painted! It's a good opportunity to use up some scraps of thread!



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I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern!

I'd love to see your projects! Tag me @pennydowdell on Instagram, or use the hashtag #pennysabcchallenge!