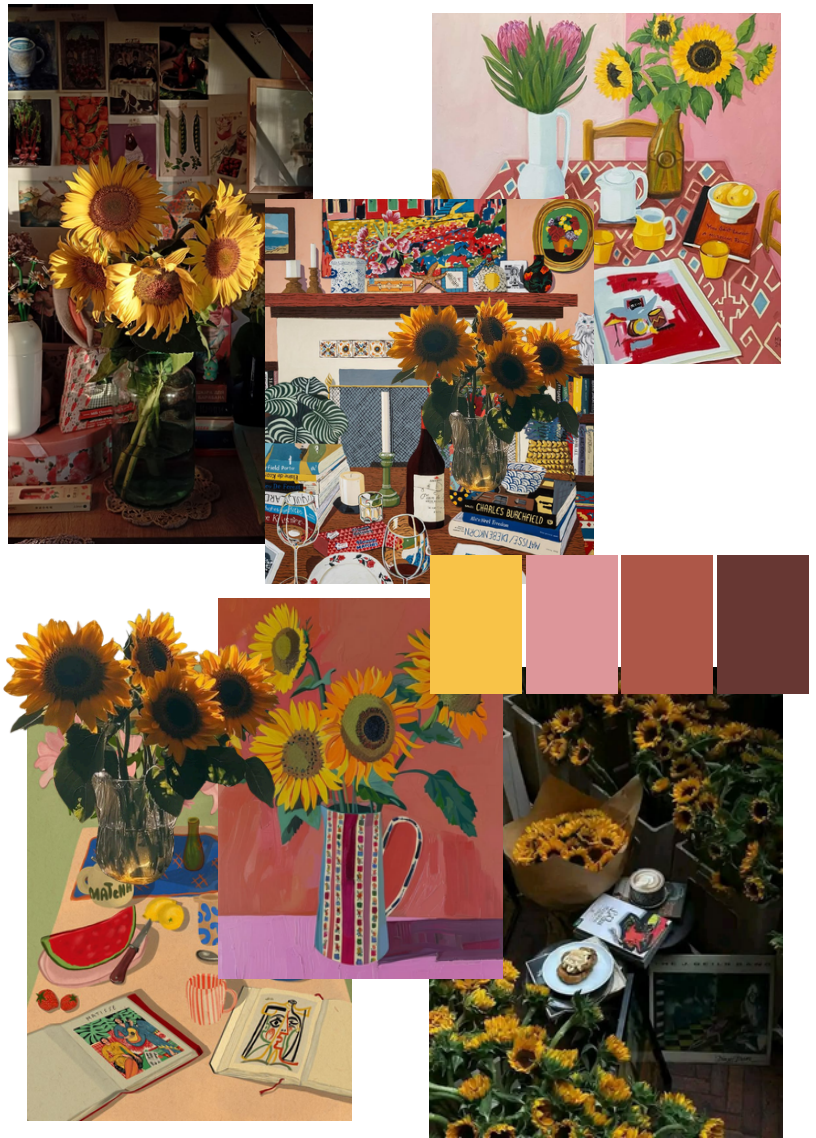




MINI CHALLENGE 2026
by Penny Dowdell

SUNFLOWERS

Starting with a vase of joyful sunflowers, this week's design is a still life scene with an autumnal colour palette, as the seasons change and everything gets a little more cosy!



THE PATTERN

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

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



STITCH GUIDE

Background

In my embroidery, I've not stitched the background, but you might want to with a wallpaper colour, or anything you like!

Sunflowers

726 petals: satin stitch
3826 & 801 centres: french knots
469 leaves: split back stitch
356 tabletop (visible through the glass vase): satin stitch

Bottle of wine

844 bottle top: satin stitch
935 bottle: split back stitch
469 highlight: split back stitch
ECRU label: split back stitch

Moka coffee pot

844 lid topper & handle: split back stitch
535 & 03 pot segments: satin stitch for the main areas & split back stitch for the lid and middle parts

Candles

All satin stitch
726 flames
224 & 597 candles

Pumpkin

3826 pumpkin: split back stitch
935 stalk: satin stitch

Books

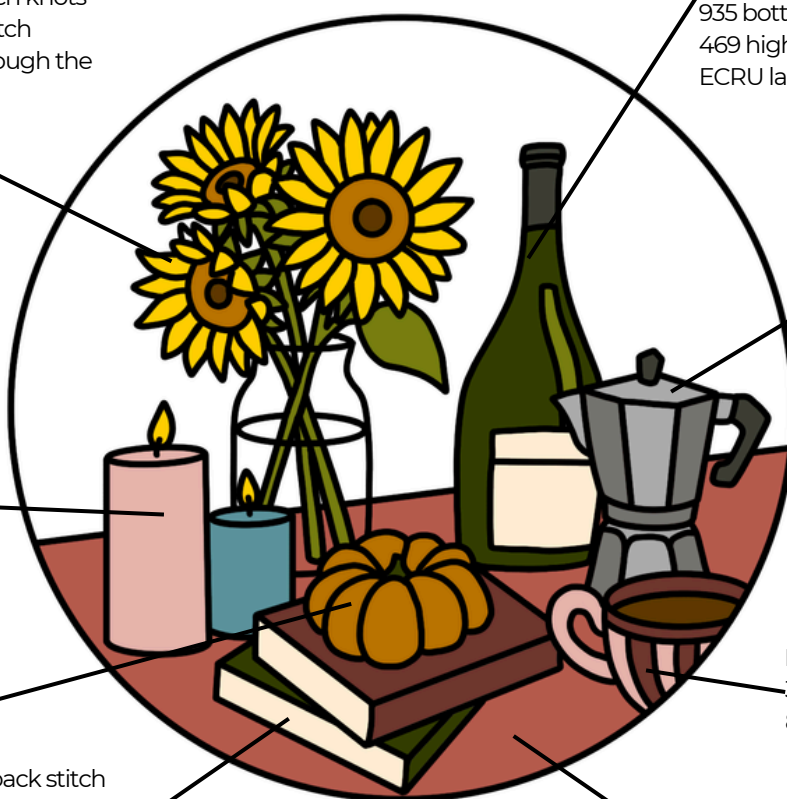
ECRU pages: split back stitch
3858 & 935 book covers: split back stitch for the covers, satin stitch for the spines

Tabletop

356 split back stitch

Mug

3858 & 224 mug: split back stitch
801 coffee: satin stitch



DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 3858 (burgandy)
- DMC 356 (soft red)
- DMC 224 (pink)
- DMC 935 (dark green)
- DMC 469 (green)
- DMC 3826 (orange)
- DMC 801 (brown)

- DMC 844 (dark grey)
- DMC 535 (grey)
- DMC 03 (pale grey)
- DMC ECRU (cream)
- DMC 597 (teal blue)
- DMC 726 (yellow)

Unless otherwise stated, stitch with THREE strands of thread.

STITCH TIPS



Add tiny french knots to the centre of the sunflowers to create the tactile effect of the seedheads!



Using the outline thread, add tiny straight stitches to the bottle label (on top of the ECRU base stitching) to create the effect of writing.



SUNFLOWERS

I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern!

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