

We are Commoners

Amy Twigger Holroyd Celebrate the Blue Fashion Commons

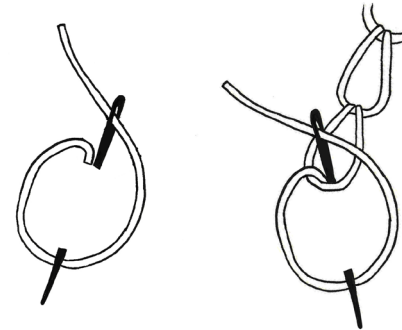
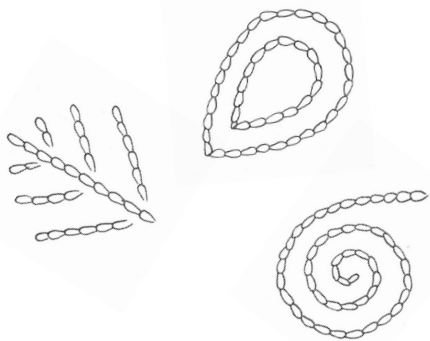
craftspace.co.uk/wac-amytwiggerholroyd

Amy's work investigates fashion and sustainability. She explores the mass production of the clothes we wear, the skills to make them and our habits as consumers. 'A Temporary Outpost of the Blue Fashion Commons' offers an alternative to the fast fashion cycle of buying and throwing away garments. Instead, clothing is treated as a shared resource that we use, contribute to and care for.

Amy encourages us to rethink how we value clothing by sharing the skills required to alter or adapt existing items. During the 19th century, folk motifs were embroidered onto English smocks. These were protective garments worn by rural workers. The motifs are a common resource ready for 21st century reinvention. Celebrate the Blue Fashion Commons by adding a folk motif onto a blue item of clothing using chain stitch.

To take the project further, try designing your own motif, work onto another garment or offer to embroider a motif for a friend. Share a picture of your finished motifs with the hashtags #BlueFashionCommons #WeAreCommoners

You can learn more about how to chain stitch here <https://bit.ly/wac-chain> If you feel ready for a more difficult motif, have a go at one of these designs



1 Find a blue garment that you already own. Choose one of the above motifs and decide where and how big you would like it to be. Draw the motif on to your garment using chalk.

2 Cut a length of thread, about 50cm. Thread your needle and tie a knot in the end. Pass your needle through the fabric from inside to outside. Start at the end of a chalked line, so the knot lies on the inside of the item.

3 Insert your needle where it emerged and bring the point out about 5mm away, along the chalked line. Place the loose thread under the needlepoint and pull the thread through, as shown in the image. Don't pull too tight – aim for a rounded horseshoe shape for each stitch. Repeat, each time inserting your needle where it last emerged.

4 When you reach the end of the motif or run out of thread, make a stitch over your last chain loop, pass the needle through to the inside and secure the end with a knot or double stitch. Repeat as necessary.