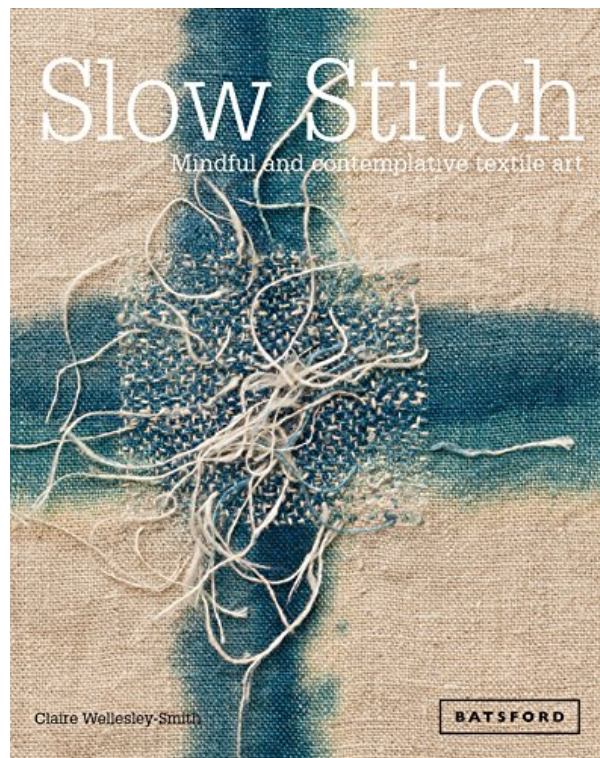
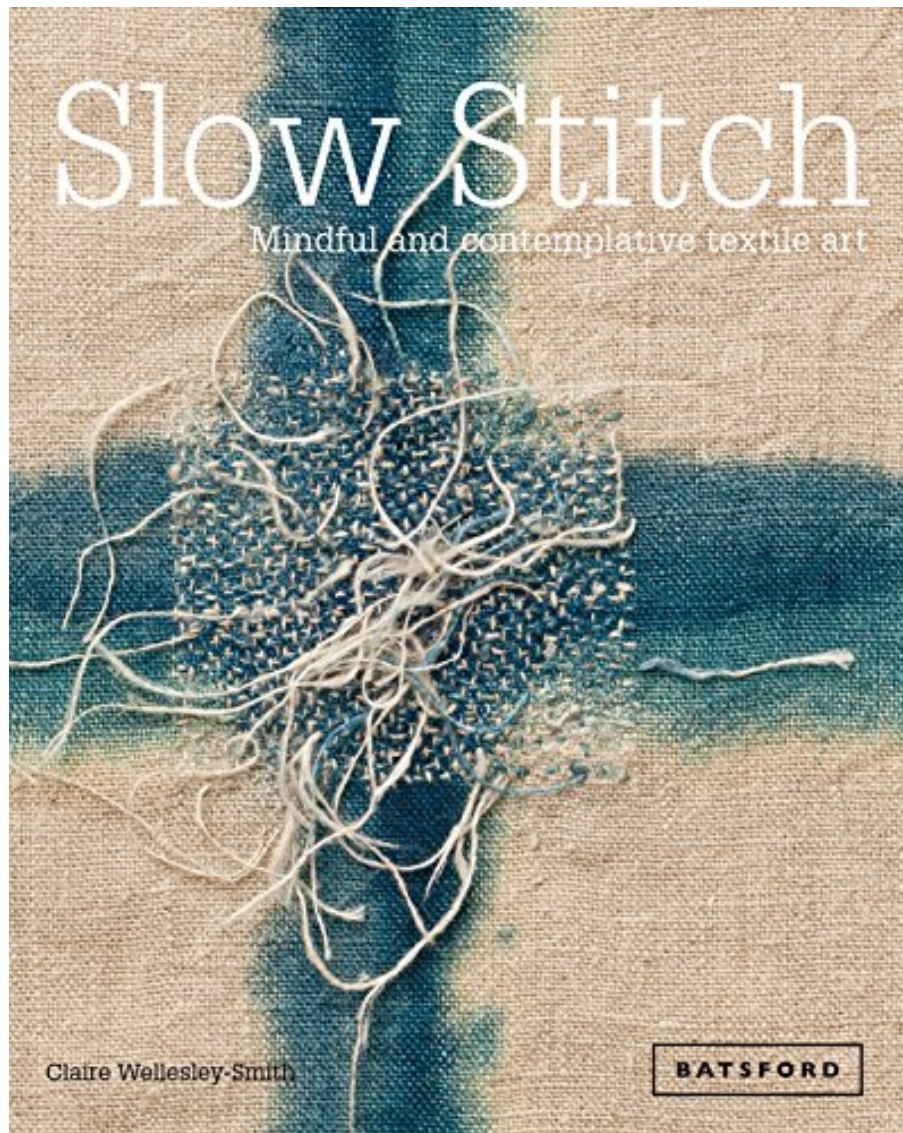


# **SLOW STITCH: MINDFUL AND CONTEMPLATIVE TEXTILE ART BY CLAIRE WELLESLEY-SMITH**



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## **About the Author**

Claire Wellesley-Smith is a textile artist living and working in Yorkshire, UK. She teaches extensively, working in adult education, schools, community-based projects, museums, and galleries. Her workshops involve sustainable stitch, repurposed cloth, and traditional techniques.

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The pleasures to be had from slowing down can be many, with connections to sustainability, simplicity, reflection, and tuning into traditional and other multicultural textile traditions. *Slow Stitch* is a much-needed guide to adopting a less-is-more approach, valuing quality over quantity, and bringing a meaningful and thoughtful approach to textile practice. Claire Wellesley-Smith introduces a range of ways in which you can slow your textile work down, including: Using simple techniques inspired by traditional practice (including hand-stitch rhythms) Reusing and re-inventing materials (reuse even old textile projects) Limiting your equipment Mending revisited (practical and decorative techniques) Project ideas and resources that help towards making a more sustainable textile practice Richly illustrated throughout, and showcasing work from the best textile artists who work in this way, this is a truly inspirational book for those looking to reconnect with their craft and to find a new way of working.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

55 of 55 people found the following review helpful.

Gently inspiring

By CR

I took this lovely book out of its package only a few minutes ago and first was intrigued by how the cover felt. It's soft. The photos inside are a muted palette of inspirational shots with closeups of stitches and weaves, light and shadow. Kantha and boro are discussed, along with contributions from various artists in the slow stitch field. I'm rushing to write this review because the book has made me (quietly) excited to explore my own handwork, but also because I have to go work at a quilt show today.

This is a pleasantly inspiring book, accessible but not academically in-depth--and that's not a complaint. I have many more academically directed books in my textile library so this is a refreshing book to have on hand. A nice primer for those who are exploring hand work as well as those who already enjoy it.

46 of 46 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Book!

By Amazon Customer

Lovely, wonder filled book. I am a long time reader of the blog this writer has maintained over a period of years. The blog was very good but this book is better than I could have hoped for. Claire has a unique way of

touching the world through the art of stitch. Her words make us stop and think about our impact on the world and how we could make that better. The illustrations in this book are tactile and evocative - they make me want to put little stitches on every garment I own. The world needs more of Claire and her ideas and less of mass produced stuff. If you are trying to express yourself through stitch and dye then this book may inspire you to great things (possibly great small things). Hopefully this talented author will write more and leave a stitch trail for the rest of us to follow.

45 of 46 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful images. Wonderful philosophical questions of production of "handmade" goods.

By kdd

This is an art book discussing philosophy with a little 'how to' for dyeing with plants and over-dyeing commercial, recycled fabric, very old linen fabric, lace and thread, as well as new floss & threads in a very simple process. (Basically fill a canning jar with X and water, insert Y's plant's roots and leaves, then add small fabric, thread, floss, etc and set in sunny window with the top on for z's days or weeks.) Anyone who is very committed to acid-free, exacting, and archival processes may be disappointed.

However, this book is fantastic, gorgeous, and put together beautifully as almost all of Batsford's books. It has given me some starting places to think through several questions rolling around in my head about what has been pulling me away from the sewing machine and toward handwork in my art. It has great photos of current fiber installations, plus close ups of beautiful handwork with collaged pieces incorporating old textiles with new. What I found the most fascinating is all the different incredible textures one can make by repeating the same stitches in different densities over an area of layered, old soft fabrics that have been already sewn, used and loved-possibly for a few generations.

And that's just the first 1/2 of the book, as I've not finished yet. I can slam through bedtime kindle novels embarrassingly fast. But this book not only encourages slow thoughtful stitching, but of slow thoughtful reading and thinking as well. It would be a shame to skim the images and ooh and ahh and then relegate it to a bookcase somewhere. I've not had another hour since pulling the book out of the box to sit in a comfortable chair with good lighting and a cup of tea/coffee/wine and finish the book.

There is also some discussion about the new do it yourself and handmade sale website boom philosophies. It makes me wonder if we defeat the process by being caught producing 10 pieces of widgets as fast as possible to get out to 7 different customers ASAP. This is one of my favorite books bought in a while.

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