

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Mary Collier

Medium

Plied wool and plied silk thread on linen

Description

A square sampler on brown, rather coarse open weave linen, with selvedge edges along the right and left sides and narrow hems along the top and bottom edges. Both plied wool and plied silk threads were used, with the majority of the embroidery done in wool. The sampler is

worked with cross and box stitches in scarlet, hot pink, rose, baby blue, olive green, brown, medium gray, lilac, russet, oyster white, and tan. Along the top, a half-inch upper case alphabet in double letter format runs along two rows, from AA to MM, and NN to XX, with a single letter Y worked at the end of the second row. A second alphabet, also half-inch upper case, is worked beneath the first alphabet. There are slight variations within the alphabet formation, including an italic first "A." The second alphabet comprises two rows, beginning with AA to MM, then NN to XX, with a single Y at the end. The alphabet sequences are divided by narrow linear bands. Below both alphabets are three repeat bands, including a narrow rosebud border, a wide floral and "Christmas tree" band, and a narrow meandering strawberry vine. Along the middle of the sampler panel runs a partial half-inch upper case alphabet worked in box stitch, this time in single letter format, from A to X. Below the alphabet appears a wide strawberry repeat band. Under the alphabets and bands, a large stylized floral spray sprouts from a two-handled shallow basket. A pair of white birds perch atop the blossoms, above a pair of gray cats. Clusters of stylized floral sprays and smaller spot blossoms flank the central basket. A distinctive Greek key border runs beneath the motifs. The sampler's signature "Mary Collier Aged 10" is worked within a blue cross stitched band, centered below the Greek key strip. At the bottom of the sampler, a large central floral basket is flanked on either side by stylized tulips, lilies, and pine trees. Two small scarlet lions appear above the tulip motifs. A pair of cross stitched bands in red and blue form a narrow border along all four sides.

Dimensions

16.88 × 17.5 in. (42.9 × 44.5 cm)