



## Sampler

### Primary Maker

Sarah Smedley

### Medium

Plied wool thread and plied silk thread on open weave linen

### Description

A rectangular sampler of open-weave natural linen, retaining a selvedge along the right edge and narrow hemmed edges along the top, left, and right sides. A combination of plied wool and plied silk threads have been used, with the majority of the stitching in wool. The wool thread colors include scarlet, clear red, cerise, coral, hot pink, pale pink, purple, dark navy blue, sky blue, turquoise, forest green, olive green, ochre, lemon yellow, and white. The plied silk threads appear in forest green, brown, pale yellow, and off-white. All embroidery is done using either cross stitch or Algerian eyelet stitch. Along

the top of the sampler, four stylized cheddar pink flowers, worked in wool thread, are flanked by single small floral motifs worked in silk thread on either end. Below, a half-inch upper case alphabet runs from A through R on the first line, and S through Z followed by numerals 1 through 9 on the second line. The alphabet does not include the letters J or U. Below the alphabet is worked an elaborate one-and-a-half-inch wide stylized scroll and panel band. Under the band is a second alphabet, a half-inch upper case from A through P on the first line and Q through Z on the second. In this alphabet, the letter J is not included, but the letter U does appear. Immediately following the letter Z are two pairs of initials, "GS" and "PS." Another decorative band follows, this one featuring a vine of tiny red flowers. Beneath this band, a large one-inch upper case alphabet worked in Algerian eyelet runs from A through H on the first line, I through R on the second line, without the letter J. Small decorative bands also separate the individual rows of letters. Below the last alphabet, the verse, inscription, motifs, and border are all worked in silk thread. The verse "Firt give to God the flower of thy youth / take for thy guide the blessed word of truth" is worked on two lines, with the words "youth," "truth," and "word" squeezed in along the right edge. Below is the signature line "Sarah Smedley her Sampler," followed by a single diamond spacer motif. A final lower case alphabet from a through x runs below. Along the very bottom of the sampler is a large strawberry vine variation, worked in silk thread with small central tufts of wool thread. The year "17" and "88" is worked in the left and right corners respectively, with a tiny single heart and a tiny diamond as spacer motifs. The entire sampler is border by a single row of cross stitching.

**Dimensions**

16.25 × 10.5 in. (41.3 × 26.7 cm)