

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Sarah Purslow

Medium

Plied silk thread on wool

Description

A rectangular sampler on a fine light weight, off-white wool ground. The sampler is worked entirely in tiny cross stitch with plied silk thread in dark green, olive green, dark brown, medium brown, russet, brick red, peach, soft orange, tan, and oyster white. Two of the small motifs are worked in a mixed silk thread of blue and pale golden yellow. The sampler's spaces are divided roughly into four sections. Centered at the top of the sampler is the verse "Death and judgment / Heaven has confirmed the great decree / That adams race must die / One general ruin

sweeps them down / And low in dust they lie," with zig zag bands following the third, fourth and fifth lines as spacers. On either side of the verse, worked in mirror image, is a hovering angel, a bird, and a two-handed basket with flowers. Below the verse is a small scene depicting Adam and Eve on either side of a central fruit tree, with a snake twining around the trunk. A pair of angels hovers above the figures, sharing the air with a pair of butterflies. Three different stylized floral motifs are worked in mirror image in a row on either side of Adam and Eve. A tiny flying bird appears above the central floral motif. The third section of the sampler includes a small three-story house in the center, flanked in mirror image by flowers, a butterfly, a tiny bird, a floral spray with a perching pair of birds, a tiny stag, and what appears to be a dog worked in mixed blue and pale yellow silk thread. In the upper left corner of this section is a small square motif, with no matching square in the right corner. The large bottom section of the sampler includes a broad central floral motif, with three blossoms above outstretched leaves, rising from a detailed formal urn. Nine separate motifs are worked in mirror image on either side of the urn, including a small flower spray and urn, a tulip, three flying birds of varying sizes, a bird on a hanging perch, a hovering angel, and a butterfly. Flanking the central urn is worked a horned cow. Beneath the bottom section runs the signature line "Sarah Purslow Marked this in the 12 year of her age 1825." A precise and angular strawberry vine is worked along all four edges. The sampler retains its original mounting. A sturdy half-inch woven linen tape has been sewn along all four edges of the wool panel, then sandwiched with a tissue-thin paper and a tightly woven light cotton lining, all three layers then tacked with small iron brads to a thin pine strainer assembly. The brads run along the narrow edges of the pine strainers.

Dimensions

18 x 13.75 in. (45.7 x 34.9 cm)