



STAR STITCH



Stem Stitch



French Knots



Lazy Daisy Stitch



Lazy Daisy Stitch



Running Stitch



Running Stitch



Running Stitch



STAR STITCH



French Knots



Lazy Daisy Stitch

### Instructions

Cut unbleached cotton into a piece that is 15" tall and 30" to 65" long (it can be the width of the yardage).

Fill the centre of the strip with running stitches to represent the roadway.

Fill the sides with plant life that is found in ditches in your region. You can use a running stitch to trace the shapes of pressed leaves and flowers, or use other embroidery stitches to make plants including flowers and leaves, and also insects.

As you stitch meditate on those people who have no choice but to leave the plants they know and love behind to discover new plants that will offer the possibility of hope and healing in their new lives.

When the panel is full of stitches, send it to:

25 Million Stitches  
P.O. Box #22246  
5930 S Land Park Dr  
Sacramento, CA, 95822  
Deadline: April 30, 2020.

Extend to 30-60" in width

Journeying home to the prairies is a way for the *Slofemists* to be reacquainted with plants—some of them wild and indigenous, others feral and introduced. The diversity of species in ditches is surprising. Roads carry people, but also seeds, spores, and pollinators. The road is "famished", to use Ben Okri's term, in its demands to carry our stories and to hold traces of us including the seeds and garbage we have left behind. On the prairies, roadways are a reminder of the way Métis people were forced to live along road allowances of surveyed roads and highways, from the late 1800s to the 1930s and 1940s, during the time of intensive European settlement.

The stitched "Famished Road Ecology" panels will become part of "25 Million Stitches" by artist Jennifer KimSohn (<https://www.jenniferkimsohn.com/25-million-stitches>). In 2020 KimSohn aims to display 25 million stitches to represent refugees around the world. She estimates that it will take about 2000 of panels this size to represent that number. According to the UNHCR (2016 statistics) there are over 70 million forcibly displaced people, of which 25 million refugees are a part. By encouraging people to fill these panels with stitches, Jennifer KimSohn hopes that people will take time to consider the magnitude of displacement and what we can do to support people who are forced to migrate along the famished road.

*Slofemists*

Title:

Famished Road Ecology (for 25 Million Refugees)

Pattern By: Lois Klassen  
Lori Weidenhmer

Date: 2019