Creative Task Assignment

One of the things that can help us understand the complexity of the subject positions afforded to early modern English women is an attempt to get inside their lived experience. This assignment gives you the opportunity to choose one of several different kinds of creative tasks to pursue.

**Purpose:** Understanding and articulating the connection between the lived experience of early modern women and their forms of expression.

**Length:** See below.

**Due Date:** Last week of class

**Assessment:** see rubric posted on the course-web

Working from early modern materials (you can use EEBO or some of the books in our library archives or manuscripts), physically recreate and then write about one type of what would have been considered “women’s work” in the early modern period. You can choose needlepoint OR making a medicinal “water,” OR making a food recipe. (waters and food should come from Folger Manuscript V.a.21 — from the transcription assignment).

1. You’ll need to finish your actual product by the final week of class. In all cases you will work entirely from materials that would have been available, using early modern texts as your source of instruction.

2. Write a 1000+ word discussion of the process, explaining what it tells us about women’s experiences in the early modern period and referring to at least two different texts written in the period (you can include texts written by men).