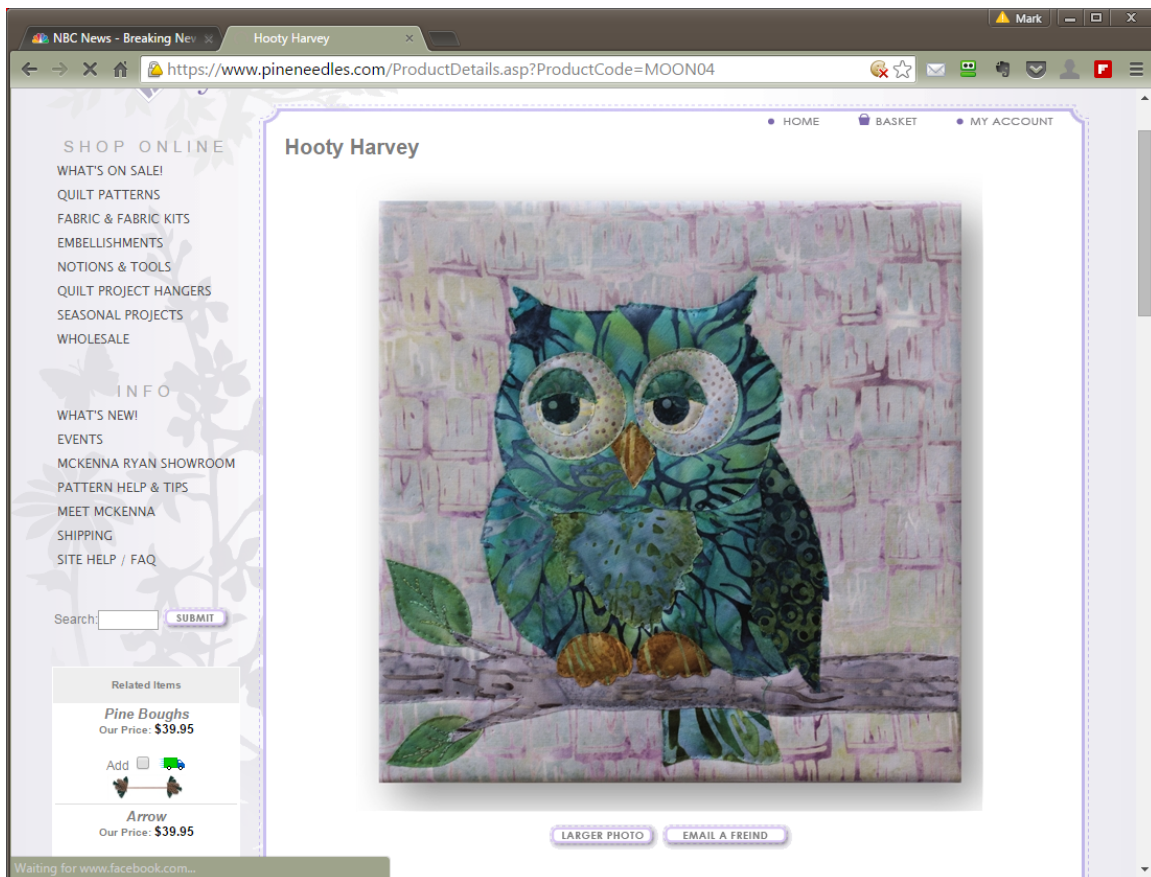


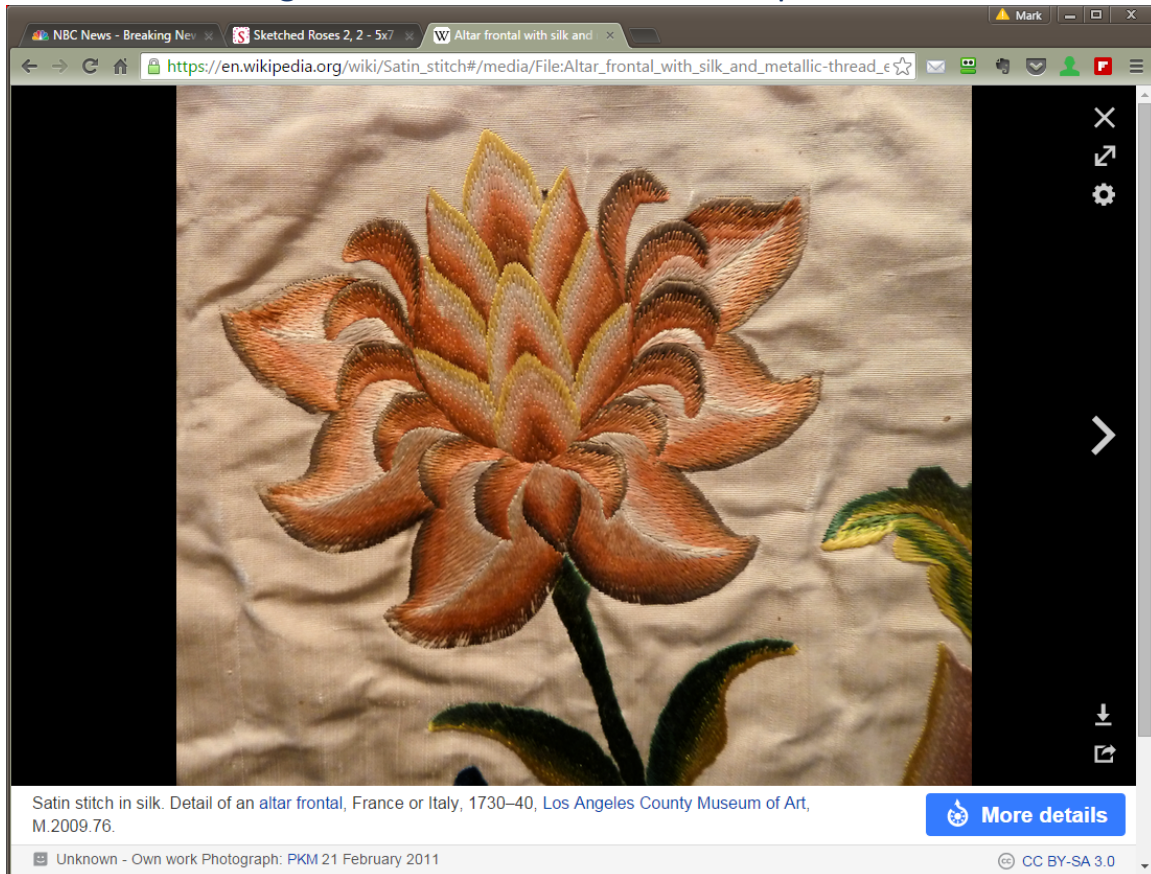
Next, most of the designs weren't usable for machine embroidery. We should have given you a little more background to help your students with the project. I thought maybe they would do a little research to see what machine embroidery designs were like but that's ok. When dealing with fibers, there are 3 basic ways fibers are used in the crafting industry:

1. Quilting –use different fabrics cut into different geometric shapes (typically straight edges) and then sewn back together.
2. Applique – use fabrics cut in different shapes to make a larger picture. Here is an example:



On this particular applique, the larger blocks of fabric are the appliques and they are either sewn down or ironed down with an adhesive backing. The whole thing is enhanced with sewing or embroidery to give it more texture. The fabric here is called a batik.

3. Machine Embroidery – this approach uses thread only – no fabric – and all of the designs are programmed into embroidery machines where the thread is stitched between two points. The threads are discrete and have a limited palette. There are two things that really make embroidery beautiful. First, shading for depth and second, satin stitches which are long, flat stitches that are used to completely cover a section of background fabric., Here's an example:



This example is actually done by hand, but the concept is the same when done by an embroidery machine. Note that the satin stitches aren't really big areas, but several smaller areas that often touch each other to provide the shading mentioned earlier. Designing for machine embroidery is like painting with a paintbrush that has one bristle.

Something to consider is how would someone use these designs. Could you see them hanging on a wall like a picture or could you see them on a bed as a bedspread or on a shirt or on a blanket? Would the colors or shapes appeal to a broad audience? I think the important

thing here is to really focus on what would appeal to your audience. By focusing on your audience, you will have a much greater chance of giving your customer what they really want and have them coming back to you for further clarification if necessary.