

The Best Of Margaret Sherry

Discover the Charm of Margaret Sherry: A Cross-Stitch Icon

For decades, the world of cross-stitch has been brightened by the delightful designs of Margaret Sherry. Known for her adorable animals, playful scenes, and unmistakable whimsy, Sherry’s patterns have become a staple for stitchers of all skill levels. Whether you are a seasoned embroiderer or a curious beginner, understanding **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** means diving into a world of tiny paws, big eyes, and charming details that bring a smile to every face. In this article, we explore what makes her work so beloved, highlight her most iconic collections, and offer practical tips for stitching her patterns to perfection.

Who Is Margaret Sherry?

Margaret Sherry is a British cross-stitch designer whose career spans more than two decades. Her designs are instantly recognizable for their soft pastel palettes, expressive animal faces, and cheeky captions. While she has created countless patterns covering holidays, nature, and everyday life, **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** undeniably centers on her animal characters – particularly cats and dogs. Her style is sometimes described as “cute” or “whimsical,” but it also carries a depth of emotion that resonates with stitchers worldwide. Each piece tells a little story, often featuring a furry friend caught in a mischievous moment or sharing a heartfelt sentiment.

The Signature Style That Defines Her Work

Big Eyes, Soft Colors, and Fluffy Details

One glance at a Margaret Sherry pattern and you know it’s hers. Her animals have oversized, expressive eyes that seem to look directly at the viewer. The shading is gentle, using multiple thread colors to create depth without harsh contrasts. Sherry often uses half-stitches and backstitch to outline fur, whiskers, and tiny paws, giving each design a soft, almost watercolor-like finish. Her color choices lean toward dusty pinks, mint greens, warm browns, and creams – a palette that feels both vintage and modern.

Playful Themes and Sweet Captions

Many of her patterns incorporate a short phrase or a single word, such as “Purrfect,” “Woof,” “Smooch,” or “Cuddle.” These captions are stitched right into the design, often in a charming font that complements the illustration. This combination of image and text makes her pieces perfect for framing, gift-giving, or decorating a nursery. In fact, **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** collections frequently include themed sets like “Baby Animals” or “Naughty Kittens,” each with a lighthearted message that adds personality.

Iconic Collections: A Tour of the Favorites

The Cat Collection

If there is one subject that defines Margaret Sherry, it’s cats. Her feline designs range from sleeping kittens to playful tabbies. Popular patterns include “Mistletoe Kittens” (a Christmas favorite), “Cat Nap,” and “Three Little Kittens.” Each cat has a distinct coat pattern – calico, ginger, black and white – stitched with careful attention to markings. For cat lovers, **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** cat patterns are absolute treasures. They capture the quirky, independent spirit of cats while keeping the design approachable for stitchers.

The Dog Collection

Equally adored are her dog designs. From golden retrievers to dachshunds, Sherry portrays a wide variety of breeds. Her “Puppy Love” series features pairs of dogs with romantic or friendly themes. “Best Friends” and “Walkies” are particularly popular. The dogs often wear tiny bows, collars, or hats, adding an extra layer of cuteness. The expressions – a tilted head, a happy tongue – make these patterns feel alive. Stitchers frequently mention that completing a Margaret Sherry dog cross-stitch feels like adopting a little friend.

Seasonal and Holiday Specials

Sherry’s holiday designs are a major part of her legacy. Her Christmas collections include “Snowy Paws,” “Santa Paws,” and “Christmas Kittens.” Easter brings bunnies in baskets, while Halloween offers playful witches’ cats and pumpkin-loving pups. These seasonal patterns are often smaller and quicker to stitch, making them ideal for gifts or festive decor. When compiling **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** for a holiday project, many stitchers turn to her limited-edition leaflets or magazine exclusives.

Special Themes: Tea, Baking, and Friendship

Beyond animals, Sherry has also designed scenes that incorporate teacups, cupcakes, and floral wreaths. These patterns often feature a single animal or a pair enjoying a cozy moment – a cat with a mug of tea, a dog with a cookie. The warmth of these designs reflects Sherry’s own love for homey comforts. They feel nostalgic without being old-fashioned. For stitchers looking to create a charming kitchen or living room set, these themes are a wonderful addition.

Why Stitchers Worldwide Adore Her Patterns

Accessible for Beginners, Rewarding for Experts

One reason **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** designs are so widely stitched is their skill level range. Many of her patterns use full cross-stitch and backstitch only, making them perfect for those new to the craft. At the same time, she incorporates techniques like three-quarter stitches, French knots, and blending filaments in some designs, offering a challenge for advanced stitchers. Her charts are clear, well-tested, and typically include a key with DMC thread numbers. This reliability builds trust with the stitching community.

Affordable and Widely Available

Margaret Sherry patterns are published by a variety of cross-stitch magazines and kit manufacturers, particularly in the UK and Europe. Leaflets and booklets are often reasonably priced, and many designs are available as digital PDF downloads. This accessibility means that stitchers from any country can enjoy her work without expensive shipping costs. Additionally, her patterns often appear in magazines like *Cross Stitch Crazy* and *World of Cross Stitching*, making it easy to build a collection over time.

Emotional Connection and Gifting Potential

There is something inherently uplifting about stitching a Margaret Sherry design. The faces are so cheerful that the process itself feels therapeutic. Finished pieces make heartfelt gifts – a “Welcome Baby” kitty for a new parent, a “Get Well Soon” puppy for a friend, or a “Merry Christmas” cat for a family member. Stitchers often report that recipients immediately smile upon receiving a framed Margaret Sherry piece. That emotional payoff is priceless and keeps people coming back to her catalog.

Tips for Stitching Margaret Sherry Patterns

Choose the Right Fabric and Thread

To capture the soft look of Sherry’s designs, use a high-quality Aida cloth (14 or 16 count) or evenweave linen. Her patterns typically call for DMC floss, which has a subtle sheen and excellent colorfastness. For best results, separate your floss strands and lay them flat to avoid twisting. Many stitchers recommend using a needle size 24 or 26 to prevent fabric distortion.

Pay Attention to Backstitch

Backstitch is crucial in Sherry’s designs because it defines the eyes, whiskers, and fur outlines. Use a single strand of floss for backstitch to keep lines neat and fine. Follow the chart closely – even a slight deviation can change the expression of an animal. Take your time on the face; the eyes are the soul of the design. If you want to add extra depth, consider using a slightly darker shade for the backstitch than the main color, as Sherry does in many of her originals.

Frame or Finish Creatively

Margaret Sherry designs lend themselves to more than just rectangular frames. Consider finishing as a small pillow ornament, a hanging door hanger, or a padded sachet filled with lavender. For baby showers or housewarmings, a small stitched hoop with a ribbon bow makes an instant gift. Because her designs are often compact, you can also stitch them onto clothing or tote bags using waste canvas.

Where to Find the Best Margaret Sherry Patterns

Official Sources and Magazines

Start with the Margaret Sherry website or her publisher’s catalog. Many of her older patterns are archived in cross-stitch magazines available on second-hand sites like eBay or Etsy. Digital platforms such as Cross Stitch Central and LoveCrafts offer PDF downloads of her most popular designs. For those who enjoy complete kits, some specialty shops still stock full sets with fabric and threads included.

Online Communities and Stitch-Alongs

Social media groups dedicated to cross-stitch, especially on Facebook and Instagram, frequently share **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** finishes. Stitch-alongs (SALs) sometimes feature her seasonal designs, where stitchers work on the same pattern together over a few weeks. These communities are excellent for finding pattern recommendations, tips, and even freebie charts that Sherry has generously released over the years.

Libraries and Second-Hand Shops

Don’t overlook local thrift stores or library book sales. Many stitchers donate their pattern collections, and you can find vintage Margaret Sherry leaflets for a dollar or two. The charm of discovering a rare pattern from the 1990s is part of the joy of collecting her work. Just check that the chart is complete and the fabric hasn’t faded.

The Legacy of Margaret Sherry in Cross-Stitch Culture

Margaret Sherry may not be a household name outside the crafting world, but within it, she is a legend. Her designs have brought comfort, joy, and connection to millions of stitchers across the globe. They appear in baby nurseries, living rooms, and handmade holiday cards. Her influence can be seen in the work of newer designers who adopt a similar cute-animal aesthetic, but few capture her unique warmth. As cross-stitch experiences a modern revival, **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** continues to attract a new generation of crafters who value simplicity, charm, and a touch of whimsy.

Conclusion: Why Margaret Sherry Remains a Top Choice

If you have never tried a Margaret Sherry pattern, start with one of her classic cat or dog designs. You will quickly understand why stitchers return to her work again and again. The combination of approachable charts, delightful subject matter, and instant emotional payoff makes every project a pleasure. Whether you are stitching for yourself or as a gift, **The Best Of Margaret Sherry** patterns offer a little piece of happiness that lasts a lifetime. So pick up your needle and floss, and let her adorable animals brighten your stitching corner today.