

THREE MEDIEVAL BEASTS: GRYPHON, PHOENIX & DRAGON

INTERMEDIATE - CROSS STITCH

by Evan C Lewis

Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc./Association canadienne de broderie, Inc.

Project Available: November 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027



This cross stitch design brings together three mythical creatures inspired by medieval art: the Gryphon, the Phoenix, and the Dragon. The artist drew on visual sources from the 11th to 14th centuries, including church tiles, illuminated manuscripts, and the symbolic creatures of the medieval Bestiary. Each motif is framed in a matching border and distilled into an image that captures the charm, humour, and storytelling spirit of medieval craftsmanship. Stitched with cotton floss on Aida fabric, as individual beasts or as a triptych, the pattern invites you to recreate these lively emblems in thread. The Gryphon reflects guardianship, the Phoenix represents renewal or resurrection and the Dragon is a symbol of mischief defeated. Together, they form a trio of expressive designs that celebrate the imagination of medieval artists translated to modern form.

Project Details

Stitches: Cross stitch

Kit: none

Supplies Needed:

- 33cm x 33cm (13" x 13") for a single beast **or** 69cm x 33cm (27" x 13") for the triptych: 14 count Aida in white*
- DMC cotton embroidery floss
- #24 **or** #26 tapestry needle
- 8" hoop **or** size according to preference, if needed (can be replaced by a frame)
- embroidery scissors
- laying tool (optional)

* *Stitchers may instead opt to stitch on dark navy Aida, similar to DMC colour 823, and forego stitching the background*

Three lively beasts inspired by the wit and symbolism of the medieval Bestiary

About the Artist

Evan C. Lewis is a New Zealand artist and archivist whose early love of visual arts led him to complete a Master of Arts in Art History. Self taught in calligraphy and later Ukrainian pysanky, he has explored many forms of historical craft. His work includes the 2023 sourcebook *A Garden of Curiosities: Renaissance-Inspired Designs for Contemporary Crafting*, a poetry anthology and a humorous gardening book. He lives in Auckland with Pickle the Miracle Cat and continues to blend historical art with contemporary stitching.

Member pricing: single beast: \$25 | triptych: \$60
Non-member pricing: single beast: \$35 | triptych: \$90