

# Tapestry Painting Instructions

## Children with Gawain and Tyger's Cub

Thank you for volunteering to paint! This packet should contain all the information needed for this project but feel free to contact me (Mistress Eleanor fitzPatrick) at any time with questions or suggestions. I can be reached at 603-318-1898, [trish@joustinghill.org](mailto:trish@joustinghill.org) or on Facebook (Patricia Cross). The artist who converted the originals for this project is Baroness Cassandra Böll von Bayer, to whom I am much indebted.

### Included in this kit:

- 1 pre-hemmed canvas with the design traced on with pencil
- 1 set of brushes
- 2 bottles of Versatex "No Heat" fixative
- 1 red
- 1 medium blue
- 1 gold
- 1 yellow
- 1 white
- 1 brown
- 1 black
- 1 medium green
- 1 sap green
- 1 set of instructions with painting order notes
- 1 full sheet color image
- 1 full sheet line drawing image that may not contain ALL the detail of the color image
- several scraps of canvas for practice/testing

### Instructions:

Below you will see the original Manesse Codex page, the color "cartooned" version modified with East Kingdom features, and the line drawing version. For various reasons, the line drawings do not always contain the full detail of the color cartoon, so always refer to both images. Larger copies of these images will be found at the back of this packet. Please note that the gold leaf in the original has been represented as medium brown in the cartoons. This was done to distinguish between shiny gold and regular old yellow. The yellow background of

the cartoon represents the natural color of the canvas. You will not be painting the background, only the elements.



Feel free to apply some artistic interpretation, but please stay within the color palette provided so that the paintings are a cohesive set.

This paint (Versatex Printing Ink) is a very thick paint, about the consistency of mayonnaise. It does not soak into the fabric much and it seldom bleeds through. It does cover very thoroughly, much more so than a cheap acrylic from the craft store. You'll want to brush it out thinly, not leave it thick or lumpy in any one spot. You won't need a second coat unless you're trying to cover a dark color with a light one.

Versatex CANNOT be allowed to freeze. It's the one big drawback to an otherwise fabulous paint.

All of the paint requires the addition of a fixative. In this kit is a couple of bottles of Versatex "No Heat" Fixative. This is used to make the paint colorfast INSTEAD of ironing or heat-setting it. I've used it on several pavilions, including my own, the Royal pavilion and the EK Gate pavilion at Pennsic. I promise it works if you follow the directions.

To use it, add a small amount (1-3%, or 1/2 - 1 1/2 tsp per 8 oz. of paint) of this fixative to your paint and mix well. It lasts for about 4-6 hours in the wet paint, then you have to add more. In practice what this means is that every time you sit down to paint, you probably need to add fixative. Don't get carried away adding it - you really do only need 1% to 3%. For the tiny jars, that's a few drops. For the medium jars, it's 1/2 tsp.

If you run out of a color, you can either order it from Dharma Trading Company (<http://www.dharmatrading.com/paints/versatex-printing-ink.html>) using the color information in the third column of the chart below or contact me for more. I made my best guess at amounts needed for the tapestry but I'm used to painting large pavilions not small detailed jobs. Do not substitute another brand of paint without talking to me first - it may not have the same colorfast properties or the same hand or sheen on the fabric.

The Children uses the following colors:

### Children Color Chart

Versatex		Children
5 Red	red	Kids gown, Kings gown, man's undersleeves, ball, border
24 Ultra Blue	medium blue	Man's gown, king's undergown, tyger, border
31 Met. Gold	gold (medium brown)	Border, crown, scepter top, king's gown trim, Gawain star
11 Ochre	yellow	Shield, man's gown lining, kids gown trim, scepter handle
46 Super Opaque White	white	Sleeve lining, belt accents, sceptre accents, girls headband
14 Brown	brown	Hair
28 Black	black	Lines, shoes
15 Yellow Green	medium green	kids gown, Gawain
15 Yellow Green, mixed	sap green	grass

## Painting Order:

The artist suggested the following painting order so that the edges overlap well, but feel free to work in whatever order makes the most sense to you.

First do all the black outlines.

Then: paint grass first  
paint feet  
paint blue man's sleeves, then gown  
paint children  
paint red man's undergown  
paint red man's gown  
paint all hair  
paint all belts

paint red man's crown, trim, scepter  
paint stick part of scepter (yellow, not gold)  
paint Gawain belt  
paint yellow, then red, then blue of Tyger's Cub  
Now, paint the border

Note that faces/hands are left unpainted, with the canvas color showing through.

For the vast majority of the project you should be able to work in small sections (less than the size of a card table) without ending up with a "dry line" in the paint as you move from one section to the next.



