**Surgical Mask Creation Explanation:**

 Each mask starts with the fabric being gloved-hand-washed in bleach-sanitized buckets with 365**™** detergent. From there it is air-dried on sanitized drying racks. Then it is ironed, front and back, on high heat. After this, the mask pattern is traced on (being as frugal as possible with fabric) and cut out. This process is repeated for ALL fabric before it becomes a mask (each mask has 3 layers). The mask pattern has been created with the input of Boston-area surgeons and various seamstresses. I am *only* using fabric that has been recommended by the CDC; 2 layers of cotton or cotton-linen and one layer of flannel (as electrostatic barrier). This means the mask is almost as effective as the N95 masks.

Please know that before beginning any mask-work I wash my hands thoroughly and every mask is made with care and extreme attention to detail. (Even though my sewing machine is as old as I am…. We work with what we have!)

As careful as I am, upon receipt of your mask, I suggest washing it with soap and warm-lukewarm water and allow it to air-dry to be sure it is completely safe for you to use. You can also look online for other ways to sanitize fabrics. Whilst bleach isn’t an option here, you can use liquid Lysol, hydrogen peroxide, or other home sanitizers.

**Break-down of cost:**

 The reason I have set the price of each mask at $22, is because of the time that goes into them and materials. It takes over 4 hours to wash, iron, trace, and cut 1yd of fabric. The technique I’m using to sew them takes 30-40 minutes per mask. The tie straps for the mask were made using T-shirts that I’ve up-cycled into yarn. This takes about 1 hour total from boring T-shirt to colorful yarn. The elastic and grosgrain is purchased from Gather Here (Cambridge) or Etsy in an effort to *shop local*. Then there is the cost of the Ziploc bags and finally, myself taking them to the post office and mailing each individual order.

Most of the money sent to me is donated back into this project to buy more materials. (EX: Fabric, thread, elastics, bias tape, chalk pencils…)

Masks that are not bought by private citizens are being donated to various hospitals, urgent cares, and supporting healthcare professionals in need. Ultimately, you are paying forward the amount of the mask to healthcare professionals!

Enjoy your mask, stay safe, and clean your phone! ☺

Cheers,

Mitzi Eppley mitzikeppley.wixsite.com/artist

P.S. You can watch the masks being made on my Instagram @tipsymitzi and contact me with orders or any issues at mitzimasks@gmail.com