Fabric Surface Manipulation
What is it?

Changing the surface of a textile through sewing, cutting, folding.
The Art of Manipulating Fabric

Colette Wolff
Gathering

Gathering: Fabric drawn together over rows of stitches
Shirring

Fabric contracted to a smaller size when gathered on multiple rows in designated areas in parallel rows.
Ruffle

Strip of fabric with one long edge gathered to a shorter target and attached to flat fabric.

Prepare a ruffle for application in a wavy line, divide no longer segments gathered closely for outside or segments gathered loosely for inside.
Flounces

Circle of fabric with a round cutout in the center, split open, straightened out, and seamed to another piece of fabric along its inner, shortest edge.
4-19. (a) Target pattern with lines indicating fold locations, (b) slashed and equally spread. (c) Final pattern with stitching line, clipping, and grainline notations. (d) Controlled flounce made from the pattern.
Include founce in bed seamline. Zigzagged floating edge.
Slash and Spread Technique

Original front sloper
Side-seam angle
Cut.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Cut.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Pivot.
Pleating

Folds pulled up from the surface of the fabric and held by stitching at the top and released below.
VI-2—Pressed knife pleats, clustered in groups of three.

FLAT PLEAT

VI-4—Four box pleats edgestitched along the outer folds.
Two inverted pleat inserts set into curved-top cutouts.
Small pleats that are structured via stitching and regulated with rows of embroidery (English smocking, Direct smocking, North American smocking, Italian smocking)
Tucking

Folds pulled up from the surface of the fabric and held by stitching from one end to the other.
Darts

Segment of fabric folded (or removed) and stitched to create rises or drop in the structure
Stuffing

Filling stitched casings in the fabric with material
design that includes a looped row of corded quilting between the stuffing-raised figures (trapunto).
Demo Projects

Gathering
6” x 4”
8” x 4”

Pleating
5” x 12”

Darts
6” x 6”