

Sue Sehr

The colors and textures of the New Mexico desert landscape have always inspired me. Last spring, the wildflowers bloomed so spectacularly, I knew instantly I wanted to translate that beauty into stitch. I have attempted to show the delicate and intense contrast of nature in the Southwest. My art is truly an outgrowth of the work in this course. I am confident the techniques I have learned will aid me as I continue in my studies.

Gillian Smith

I am a passionate kayaker and my inspiration for my creative work in recent years has been islands in the sea and their reflections in the water. I have no formal art training and came to Gail's studio wanting to improve my seascapes and expand my knowledge. My biggest struggle has been to modify what I already know and try Gail's suggestions. I have improved the sewing techniques I already knew and learned many more. I particularly enjoyed all the hours spent painting fabrics, learning the qualities of different paints on a wide variety of fabrics and studying colour effects.

Left: Sue Sehr Right: Gillian Smith



EXHIBITION



© 2010 Susan Keister

Gail Harker Creative Studies Center
569 Technical Drive, Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Phone: 360-279-2105, Fax: 360-707-7188
gail@gailcreativestudies.com; www.gailcreativestudies.com

28 & 29 August 2010

*Level 2 Certificate in
Experimental Machine Stitch
Class name: Lady Slippers*

The course helps students acquire further skills in machine embroidery through a series of diverse techniques including painting, printing and dyeing of fabric and threads to create a portfolio of machine stitched samples. Embellishments such as beads, sequins, cords, tassels and a small amount of hand embroidery are also used. Students add to samples made from Level 1 Machine Stitch. A special study is made of historic embroidered book covers and contemporary stitch books, in conjunction with other media. An innovative stitch book is created from an original design. The course was conducted over a period of 18 months, in seven five-day sessions.

Tutor: Gail Harker



Left: Bobbi Janowiak **Right:** Isabel Parker



The Lady Slippers from left to right: Sue Sehr, Isabel Parker, Gillian Smith and Bobbi Janowiak



Gail Harker, L.C.G.I. lived and taught City & Guilds Creative Studies in Britain for 20 years, and was, for many years, an External Verifier for the City & Guilds Institute. In 1994 Gail founded the Gail Harker Creative Studies Center in Oak Harbor, WA. She has taught, and continues to teach, all of the Certificate and Diploma Courses in Design and Embroidery at the Oak Harbor center. She is an Artist of international repute and the author of five books.

Bobbi Janowiak

I started quilting by taking adult education classes and making baby quilts for family and friends. As I was wondering what to do next, I attended an exhibit at Stitches on Salt Spring Island. Four local women, Karen Tottman, Sheila Bull, Carol Leach and Susan Paynter who had taken classes at Gail Harker Studio were exhibiting their fiber art projects. I was stunned and inspired. I had never seen anything like it. Fortunately, another friend had seen the exhibit and we both signed up for classes. These courses have challenged and inspired me. I have learned an incredible amount about color, design and stitch! I look forward to more.

Isabel Parker

Never having taken an art course in my life made signing up for a Gail Harker Creative Studies Center course a huge leap of faith. I am so glad that I took that jump since I have learnt a great deal from all the teachers at the center and can truly claim that the process has been life changing.

My quilting had evolved to the point where I wanted to develop my own ideas instead of following someone else's patterns, but I was also afraid of taking another course where everything would look exactly like the teacher made it. The courses I have taken at the studio were excellent in helping me find my own voice and moving me along to the next level. I can hardly wait to see where I can go next!