

EXHIBITION



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22 - 23 September 2007

*Level 2 Certificate in
Experimental Machine Stitch
Class name: Nasturtiums*

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, and tassels and a small amount of hand embroidery are also used. Students add to samples made from Level 1 Machine Stitch, and a special study is made, in class and independently, regarding 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 15 months, in six five-day sessions.

Tutor: Gail Harker



Top left: Claire Jones shares a sketchbook.
Top right: Susan Paynter with a preliminary work.
Bottom left: Nasturtiums reviewing some research.
Bottom right: Donna Dowdney with a research binder.

What's on!

Upcoming Exhibitions 2007

3 & 4 November
Level 3 Art & Design

Certificate Classes in 2008

Level 3 Studies in Art and Design

Starting: 16 January 2008

Tutor: Gail Harker

Class name: Thistles

Level 1 Experimental Machine Stitch

6 - 10 February 2008 (5 days) - \$600

Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch

15 - 19 March 2008 (5 days) - \$600

Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand Stitch

Starting: 10 April 2008

Tutor: Gail Harker

Class name: Foxgloves

Level 1 Feltmaking

15 - 19 August 2008 (4 days) - \$500

Tutor: Valerie Stein

Classes with a Master in 2008

Beyond the Surface with Barbara De Pirro

Push the bounds of acrylic media.

14 - 17 February 2008 (4 days) - \$500

Drawing and Painting for the Petrified with Richard Box

No experience required.

6 - 10 September 2008 (5 Days) - \$625

Drawing and Painting for the Petrified Level 2 with Richard Box

Advance your skills.

13 - 16 September 2008 (4 Days) - \$500

The Richard Box Experience with Collage and Stitch

Fabric collage with machine and hand stitching.

19 - 22 September 2008 (4 Days) - \$500

Karen Tottman



This course has influenced the direction of my creativity in ways I would never have imagined. By approaching stitch as a process, I have learned how to work from a source of inspiration to explore techniques and design elements. Always interested in the ocean and beaches as subject matter, I have learned to view simple piles of fishing nets as design sources.

Gordana Vukovic

Attending this class was a life changing experience for me. In the world of color and texture I learned to let my ideas roam free and to embrace happy accidents. I also discovered that creating art is a very involved, trying, and at times very hard process. Still, it makes me complete and happy and, now that I experienced the joy of mark making, I will never stop doing it.



Left: Karen Tottman Right: Gordana Vukovic



Left: Sheila Bull Right: Donna Dowdney

Sheila Bull



I have really enjoyed the creative process during this course. Giving myself the freedom to just relax and allow the creative juices to flow has been exciting to me. In the past I always followed patterns when making quilts or sewing. I don't think I will ever go back to this method. I have learned how to dye my own fabric and many new sewing techniques; I was taught how to work through a theme to get desired results. I now feel confident in creating my own design. Another big surprise, I learned I could do so many things with my machine with no need to panic if I adjust the components.

Donna Dowdney

The colors, designs, and infinite variety within fractals inspired my projects. (Fractals are geometric shapes with symmetry of scale so that you could zoom in on an infinite number of lines, and the fractal would look the same.)

To begin my project, I manipulated fractals on my computer, transferred them to fabric, and used machine embroidery as well as other techniques to enhance their designs. Next, I abstracted the fractal's shapes and colors and created textures and varied fabric combinations to reflect my vision. Turning my creative vision into fabric designs was my greatest challenge.



Claire Jones



I have had a long time passion and fascination for all things stitch and textile related. The supportive environment of my fellow students and Gail's ever patient guidance has helped me stretch beyond my comfort level resulting in me finding a new confidence in my abilities, which, to my extreme delight I can see in my work. This class has given me a wonderful foundation for my future endeavors as an artist.

Carol Leach

I have had a fascination with fabric and fiber since I was a young child. My mother was an excellent seamstress; but my skills with a sewing machine left much to be desired, and I worked mainly by hand. When starting Level 1 Machine I was apprehensive. But a whole new world opened, as I began developing and exploring my machine. I now feel quite confident in adjusting and playing with my machine and exploring various techniques. Probably the most important learning experiences I have gained from the course are planning ahead and documenting. Both these skills are weak, however I recognize the importance of both and will definitely work at furthering my abilities in these areas as I continue on my own.



Left: Claire Jones Right: Carol Leach



Left: Pauline Oakey Right: Susan Paynter

Pauline Oakey



The theme for my book was inspired by my love of flowers and gardening. To take ownership of an idea and develop it, was a liberating feeling. Hence, Colours and Textures in the Garden. I wanted to incorporate the widest variety of techniques that we had learned. One of my challenges was to become more proficient at free motion machining, which I've discovered is still ongoing. The many techniques we learned need much more exploration and I look forward to these opportunities in the future.

Susan Paynter

I am passionate about where I live in the BC rain forest and am also greatly concerned about how mankind has destroyed some of the most stunning places on earth. I used my new found knowledge of machine stitching, combining fabrics and threads with the experimentation techniques we used in this class to capture the wildness and beauty of the cedar forest. The final page of my "book" reflects my social activism as well as the love I have for stitching, sewing and fabric arts.

