

*Level 3 Advanced Experimental Stitch*

## *Deborah Zibrik*

This class has stocked my toolbox with techniques to combine with stitch and allowed me to move from idea through design to finished pieces which make me smile. My lasting impressions of the Harker Studio environment is of stimulation, and at times, frustration, and has encouraged my growth as a contemporary fiber artist! Bravo!



# EXHIBITION



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*Level 3 Certificate  
Advanced Experimental Stitch  
Class name: Peonies*

The advanced course focuses on using knowledge and skills acquired during level 1 and 2 Stitch and level 3 Art and Design courses. Students add to the samples made in the level 1 and 2 courses, create innovative new art pieces, and generate design and inspirational research from a wide variety of historical and contemporary sources. Work includes a wall hanging, or panel, a stitched multi media book cover and interior content, a portfolio of samples, and a 3-D item. This course was conducted over a period of two years, in eight five-day sessions.

**Tutor:** Gail Harker



*Peonies at work in the studio.*



**Left:** Maria Winner **Right:** Mary Telford

*Mary Telford*

Ten years! Oh I have learned so much.

From timid beginner in Art and Design with Gail, on to Textile Decoration with Ruth Issett and the exciting internalization that the world is my design source Then, again with Gail, I have had the opportunity to use that foundation of knowledge and experience to create stitched pieces both hand (my lifelong love) and machine (a new love).



*Maria Winner*



Wanting to focus on my passion, I have found my time here to be an enjoyable and worth while experience. In what for me became art retreats, I found a place to receive encouragement, constructive criticism and the opportunity to explore products and techniques that I may not have thought to consider. Best of all, I have been exposed to a delightful and intelligent group of artists with whom I can have meaningful conversations about fiber arts.

## Eugenie Dufault Simpson

This work reflects my attempt at learning to sway gracefully between structured process and playful experimentation. Art making is often said to involve as much (or more) perspiration, as inspiration. I have been discovering over the course of my studies with Gail, how very important inspiration is. The starting point: something has moved me. Or aroused my curiosity. It is a place from which many paths diverge, and then diverge again and again over the course of the entire project. Choice points. Over and over again the touchstone is the inspiration. And then going back to the steps, the structure that supports the design process. This work resulted from the bump and grind that sometimes became a dance.



## Jill Taylor



Exploring different inspirations, techniques and stitches, I never know down which path I will travel. To take this journey in good company with Gail's skillful leadership is always stimulating and very rewarding.



Above: Jill Taylor  
Left: Eugenie Dufault Simpson



Left: Claire Jones  
Below: Martha Kleihege



## Claire Jones

This course has expanded my confidence in experimenting and working with new materials in ways I could not have imagined. It has also strengthened my hand work skills. Now, when I combine my handwork and machine stitching I am able to bring new depth, dimension and detail to my work.



## Martha Kleihege



During this course I have learned how to use colors and texture to show movement in my pieces. We have been taught how to research, sample and develop a project from a source of inspiration to a finished work of art. I feel blessed to have experienced this course in the company of such a wonderful group of women artists who have been a constant source of inspiration and support throughout this journey.

### Moira Kloster

The further I come, the more I realize art is about the journey, not the finished product. What's on display is such a tiny piece of the pleasure and process of doing art. From learning basic stitches back in Level 1 to figuring out a design for a wall-hanging in Level 3, the important question has always been, "What can I try next?" What possible solution to a problem, what different take on an idea, what process, what new project? I've learned most just from experiencing the journey. And it's a journey in such excellent company! Gail is a magnificently experienced guide, and my class mates are such an inspiring, supportive community of learners.



### Susan Lenarz



Being an Artist is a challenge in learning to see. Having a range of techniques available to interpret what one sees provides an artist with a language. Practicing this sight and expression has helped me develop my viewpoint. There are so many inspirations in this world - I continue to be excited working with color and line. I am challenged by Gail's focus on art as a process and look forward to continuing to work with her assistance.

Left: Susan Lenarz Right: Moira Kloster



Left: Karen Nelson Right: Alba Romero

### Karen Nelson

I entered Level 3 Stitch with the focus on hand stitching and am exiting as a happy machine stitcher, colorist, and designer - an "artist" at heart. I need to continue to grow in all of these areas, but my art seems to "sing" to me and I am smiling! Each class I take brings me a step closer to just where I want to be.



### Alba Romero



Color - I LOVE COLOR and my art shows it. I want to thank Gail for continuing to challenge me. During this class, I have grown a lot. I am more confident and think that I have a better understanding of how to use color to achieve what I want in my pieces.