

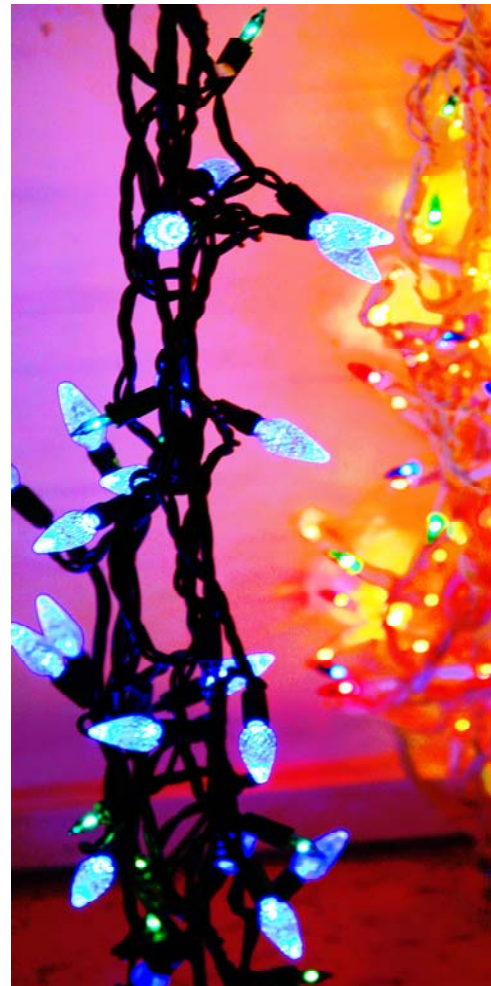
NEWSLETTER No. 1

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It is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed since I made the flight from England in September 1994 to teach the first London City & Guilds course in North America on Whidbey Island, Washington. There was the activity of organizing City & Guilds Courses on Whidbey island, The College of the Desert in California, and Calgary, Alberta, Canada and also the creation of our own center here in Oak Harbor, Washington. Along with many other City & Guilds courses, I have also developed a series of Certificate and Diploma courses offered at our center. The latest activity has been the purchase of a piece of land designated to be the site of a new building. Don, my husband and partner has been carefully developing and redeveloping the plans for our new construction. We are hopeful for building to begin in early 2008.

When I realized that we have had nearly 1000 students since we began, I decided that we needed to make time to create a newsletter. The newsletter will be about: course and studio activities, new art inspirations, tours and historical embroidery, and past and present student activities. It will be about some of the things that we feel passionate about. The content of our newsletter may change over time depending on the feedback from you. The newsletter will be made available on our web site only. Enjoy!



A glimpse at our studio Christmas decorations.

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Gail Harker

Our Dedicated Team at the Center



Gail Harker, L.C.G.I. - Center Director and Tutor of many of our courses.

Gail lived in Britain for 20 years where she also taught City & Guilds courses and served as an external verifier for the City & Guilds Institute. Gail has taught and continues to teach all of the Certificate and Diploma Courses in Design and Embroidery at the Oak Harbor center. She has written five books on embroidery.

Don Harker - General Manager

Don is a retired engineer who specialized in management of major international oil and gas projects. His work took him to all parts of Europe, North Africa, Southeast Asia, the Arctic, and several Latin American countries. He manages the day to day business operations of the Center.



Sabrina DeVrij-Bradley joined us as a full time administrative assistant in 2006. She is a graduate of W.W.U. with a B.A. in Psychology. If you call the center, it is more than likely that Sabrina will answer the phone. Her work includes billing, correspondence and other more creative tasks assisting Gail in the production of course brochures and notes.

Lee Sutton - Handy Man

Lee takes care of janitorial tasks at the center and assists with setting up for incoming classes and exhibitions. Lee is a veteran who served with the U.S. Army and Navy and was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in Vietnam.





Lisa Harkins - Past Administrative Assistant (2001 - 2006)

Lisa Harkins graduated from her City & Guilds Embroidery Diploma course and left the position of Administrative Assistant to create art full time. She still joins us for special projects.

Our Tutors

Gail Harker, L.C.G.I. - see page 2



Richard Box is a highly respected, influential artist, embroiderer, teacher, and author. Trained at the Hastings School of Art and Goldsmith's College of Art, London, his work has been widely exhibited and published. Over the past 12 years, his *Drawing for the Terrified* course has proved extremely popular, and is one of a number of courses he teaches throughout England. He is the author of 5 best-selling books.

Ruth Issett is a graduate of the Birmingham College of Art and Design with a degree in Fashion/Textiles (Embroidery). Ruth is a highly experienced teacher with many years experience in England. She is also a member of the Practical Studies Group of the Embroiderer's Guild of Great Britain, and is the author of three books, *Colour on Paper and Fabric*, *Glorious Papers*, and most recently *Colour on Cloth* published by BT Batsford, London.



Valerie Stein earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Oregon State University, with an emphasis in fiber design. Valerie holds the internationally recognized Level 3 City & Guilds Certificate in Embroidery and Design. She now teaches felting, surface design, and other fiber related classes to adult students in Washington.

We Welcome Barbara De Pirro

We would like to introduce you to Barbara DePirro who is a talented artist that we feel fortunate to have teach at the center. She travels extensively as a Lecturer in Golden's Working Artists Program. She works in paint, photography, sculpture, and multi media. She has a background that includes graphic design and is a gifted Teacher. She has undertaken independent studies of art in the Indonesian Island of Bali, Hawaii, Mexico and Italy. Her work is exhibited nationally and internationally.

This February, Barbara will be tutoring a new Master Class. ***Beyond the Surface*** is a journey into the mysterious world of acrylic media. The focus of the course will be the creation of several samples, providing a wide range of exposure to acrylic media and their properties.

The course is open to anyone, and an unexpected perk is that you could literally throw a roll of paper towels in your car and show up the first day of class prepared! Everything you'll need is here! Of course, you may want to bring a few extras with you, but we promise you'll have to go a long way to see such a short supply list again! ***Beyond the Surface*** runs **14 - 17 February 2008**.

The full brochure and registration sheet are available on our web site's *Summary of Courses* page accessible through the menu bar.



Barbara De Pirro



SEED - An original painting by Barbara De Pirro



Guests listen as Barbara talks about products by Golden Artists Colors, Inc. at our lecture in Spring 07.

A Trip into the Past via Textiles

By June Steegstra

October began a two-week tour that packed in centuries of needlework and historical places in England and France. It began with meeting an enthusiastic group of ladies and a few husbands in an old hunting lodge turned hotel in Bicester near Oxford. The leader and planner of our tour was Gail Harker and her husband Don.

The Ashmolean Museum

The first day of our tour was spent in Oxford. We met by special arrangement, a curator at the Ashmolean museum, who showed us exquisite 17th c. embroideries that the general public does not see. Pictures of these embroideries which are generally Bible scenes do not do them justice. They are full of life in color, dimension and fine detail. The scale of human figures, animals, plants and insects are out of proportion but it creates a fantasy world. Wood, bone, and wool cord padding are covered with needlelace to bring depth and interest to the embroideries. The stitches are so fine (probably over one or two threads of the linen). It is incredible to think that the work was either done in daylight or by candlelight! There were also blackwork coifs and headcloths and some curious items such as a tiny frog purse worked in very fine needlepoint and a nut shell tape measure worked in detached needlepoint and braid stitch.

English Embroideries by Mary M. Brooks ISBN 1854441930 explores the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology's collection of 17th C. Embroideries. There are a profusion of detailed photographs of many styles of embroidery that include Raised Work and Metal Thread Embroidery. The text is very informative and portrays a diverse selection of subjects that were used for embroidery in this time period. There is a shop on their website that shows a list of their publications. The book is small and good value. Visit The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archeology's Shop at <http://www.ashmolean.org/shop/>



June at the Ashmolean Museum.



Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The building was designed by Irish architects Thomas Newenham Deane and Benjamin Woodward from 1854 to 1860. This also serves as the entrance to the Pitt Rivers Museum. Hailed as neo-Gothic, the structure is comprised of a large square courtyard with an entirely glass roof.

In the afternoon we were free to go where we liked. There are 20 some Universities and Colleges in Oxford which made the streets alive with students. I chose to visit the Oxford University Museum which also houses the Pitt Rivers Museum. The Oxford Museum focuses on natural history so there were fossils and reconstructed dinosaur bones, etc. The thing that intrigued me the most were the many white pillars around the huge room that had decorated capitals each carved in a different foliage.

Pitt Rivers Museum

Pitt Rivers Museum was having an exhibition on world textiles. The museum itself is very dark but there are wind up flashlights available to use. There were many unusual collections of needlework, beadwork, feathers and native embellishments all grouped together by subject. For instance, an embroidered purse from France might be next to a native American pouch or a beaded purse from Africa or Asia. It was startling to see things grouped in this way but gave a rare opportunity to see how different cultures approach a common theme.



The Irish stone carvers O'Shea and Whelan created the gothic ornamentation. The naturalistic stone carvings and wrought iron work blend the Pre-Raphaelite with the scientific function of the building. We counted over 50 carved capitals.



Quilted baby shoes English 18th Century at Pitt Rivers Museum



Oxford University Museum - June resting. The courtyard is lined with statues of eminent men of science: Aristotle, Bacon, Linnaeus and Darwin can all be found. Cloistered arcades line the perimeter of the courtyard supported by columns made from different British stones.

A Foretaste of Heaven with Jane Lemon at Wells Cathedral

By Marcia Anop-Romashko

Jane Lemon and Maurice Strike were selected to design the many frontals and vestments for the Millennium. Jane was also in charge of the translation of the design into embroidery and the actual execution of pieces. The theme, *Mystery and Meaning*, was intended to show people a foretaste of heaven and to serve as an inspiration to all who viewed them. The overriding theme is light, and accordingly the high frontals have focused light while the nave pieces have diffused light. Along with the Sarum Embroiderers, Jane also enlisted the Royal School of Needlework to complete the large body of work.

Jane told us that designing involves many decisions and considerations. For example, the work had to be scaled up to be seen at a distance, and that required a change in materials in order to achieve the same effects as in a small embroidery. Humidity and mounting the work were also important considerations. Jane did not want every piece to be bold and dynamic, but rather to have an overall effect like that of a storyteller who modulates his voice to engage his listeners. She used at least 7 tonal values in each piece as well as a tiny bit of a complementary color to add spark.

For one of the Altar Frontals, Jane told us she realized she didn't have enough of the chosen, "perfect" fabric and then spent time tracking it down. She ended up at a fashion house literally picking scraps of it from the floor.



Jane Lemon M.B.E. describes the Advent altar frontal in Wells Cathedral.



A close up of the Advent altar frontal.

Metal Thread Embroidery, Tools, Materials and Techniques by Jane Lemon is an outstanding classic book on the subject which has recently been republished by Batsford Publishers in 2002. Each section of the book is alphabetized and the entire book is published with over 200 colored photos and easy to understand illustrations.

City & Guilds Diploma Course

July marked an extraordinary milestone for us and our students. The *Diamonds*, completed their City & Guilds Diploma in Design and Embroidery course of study. We celebrated with an exhibition of their work on July 26, 27 & 28, 2007. Many of you joined us, but if you were unable to attend please have a look at the Exhibition Program located on our exhibitions page, which can be accessed from our main page.

These candidates studied Part 1 Embroidery and Design at the Center, and are holders of the internationally recognized City & Guilds Certificate of Competence in this discipline.

The Part 2 Diploma course is designed to hone the basic skills learned in Part 1, and to build upon them to develop more highly advanced embroidery and design skills. The course covers some study of foreign embroidery, history of embroidery through the 20th Century, and metal thread embroidery.

This group of students is only the second to have completed their training and receive their City & Guilds Diploma in Design and Embroidery from a City & Guilds Center in North America. We are very proud of their achievement and thrilled that there are such talented individuals working as ambassadors in our artistic discipline. Well done Ladies!



The *Diamonds* are (front row): Margaret Phillips, Tutor Gail Harker, Joanne Rieger, Bobbi Larson, (second row) Sylvia Marie Polk, Janine Hunt, Lisa Harkins, Marjorie Bachert, and Maura Donegan.
Not Pictured: Johnette Brock, Isabel Gaddis, Denise Liberio and Miriam Rabitz.



A few visitors enjoy the exhibition.



Studies of Light by Johnette Brock

Exhibition Programs on the web site

Sabrina has begun to place the programs from our past exhibitions on our web site. You can view a piece of each student's work, a picture of them and read about their inspirations, tribulations and their views about the learning process. I know that students within each graduating group will want to have a look and be able to direct their friends and interested people to the site. We did not publish programs before 2004, but are hoping to eventually feature pictures of all of our graduating groups' work from 1997 through 2003.

Certificate & Diploma Graduates on our web site:

2004	April 23 - 25	Amethysts	Level 4 Diploma in Design and Embroidery
	August 28 - 29	Wisteria	Level 2 Machine Embroidery
	August 28 - 29	Cornflowers	Level 2 Textile Decoration
	August 28 - 29	Bouquet	Level 3 Embroidery
2005	March 19 - 20	Snapdragons	Level 1 Art and Design
	March 19 - 20	Dahlias	Level 2 Embroidery
2006	Sept. 9-10	Camellias	Level 3 Art and Design
	Sept. 9 - 10	Daisies	Level 2 Textile Decoration
	Sept. 9 - 10	Bouquet	Level 3 Embroidery
	Nov. 11	Gardenias	Level 3 Art and Design
2007	June 9 - 10	Delphiniums	Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Stitch
	June 9 - 10	Violets	Level 3 Machine Embroidery with Art and Design
	July 27 - 29	Diamonds	Level 3 Diploma in Design and Embroidery
	Sept. 22-23	Nasturtiums	Level 2 Design and Experimental Machine Stitch
	Nov. 3 - 4	Pinks	Level 3 Art and Design

Visit the web site at www.gailcreativestudies.com then click on the *Exhibition* tab on the menu bar at the top left of the screen to access information about upcoming exhibitions and look through past programs.



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