

SPRING STITCHING

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Hilary McCormack's prizewinning Etui Box

New Projects

Spring is a very good time to learn something new. The increased sunlight and milder temperatures make us feel optimistic and bold enough to try new projects.

For example, if you're still shying away from **machine embroidery**, our June workshop with **Norma Heron** will put your mind at rest.

Have you heard of **Lutrador** but never used it? Try **Janet Vance's** mixed media workshop in **August**.

Hilary McCormack and **Karen Scott** will teach us two forms of **book making** in **November** - books are such a great way to showcase any form of embroidery or make a Christmas present for a special someone...

Perhaps you'd like to use a new technique for our **May Colour Competition** or for the first **Chair's Challenge** on the theme of 'Skylight' in **October**?

We look forward to seeing your entries because Merseyside Branch never fails to impress with the wealth and talent of its members.

Our Trip to the NEC

Tired of what local shops have to offer? Shocked by the prices in department store haberdasheries? I know I am!

The **NEC** are hosting three fabric shows: Fashion Embroidery and Stitch (sponsored by Madeira), Hobby Crafts, and Sewing For Pleasure. Just one **£9.50** ticket gets you into all three shows. We have booked a 16 seater coach and

the overall price, including show(s) ticket will be **£27.50**

It's only by going to the big shows that you find out what all the newest gadgets are, see demonstrations of new fabric techniques and generally learn something new. Where else are hundreds of stalls and their luscious goods all gathered together in one place for you to peruse?

Think ahead to that Guild competition you might enter, that workshop you might need to stock up for - and even to next Christmas!

Phone Vicky to book your place - **Tel. 475 3114**

What Inspires You?

At our recent workshop with Richard Box, we admired his beautiful embroidered pieces. **Vicky Williams** said to me, "His work inspires you before you even start sewing!"

This made me wonder what inspired the others on the course and so I asked them and thought you might like to share the results.

Hilary cited an artist called Hunderwasser who paints colourful curved buildings and also Hockney for his use of colour.

Brenda Muller chose Renoir for his freedom of expression and Vermeer and Rembrandt for their precise and detailed work. She also described how inspiring she found it seeing our members' work and also the opportunities to contribute to

projects like Ruby's quilts and our exhibitions.

Richard Box himself, told us how he had been inspired by Constance Howard during his time at Goldsmiths. He also remembered copying a painting by Cézanne when he was 19 and how much he learned about colour mixing whilst doing it.

Marie Stacey let us into a little secret: she is so fond of Rembrandt's self portraits that she has prints of four of them on her sitting room walls and converses with them quite frequently! Marie cited Louise Gardiner as an influence because her techniques and encouragement freed up her own work.

Knowing **Vicky Williams'** great interest in costumes, goldwork and Jacobean embroidery, I was unsurprised to learn that she

admired Holbein for his detailed paintings of clothing. She also loves Grayson Perry - another one for detail!

Nawal Gebreel decided on Fortuny and Issy Miyake for their pleating, the movement, rhythm and repetition of their fabric.

Karen Scott, who has a real fondness for metalwork, chose Ruth Asawa and her wire sculptures that almost look as though they have been knitted or crocheted.

Carolyn Reed admired Turner for his use of colour and light and Gaudi for his curves.

Wendy Neale explained that she likes looking at contemporary artists on Pinterest, but also appreciates Giotto for his wonderful attention to detail. **(Cont'd on Page 4)**

Letter from Pauline Roberts

"I was delighted to hear from the Chair of the South Devon Embroiderers' Guild that the committee had emailed her with good wishes mentioning me. Quite a surprise!

It was very thoughtful of you. This branch are a friendly crowd, not as big as Merseyside, though. Learning names is a nightmare for me!

I did think of you all on your Christmas Party day and hope it was

successful. Love and best wishes to everyone."

We wish Pauline all the best in her new home and she is already missed - especially her wonderful baking as anyone who has sampled her legendary mince pies will know!

Macmillan Coffee Morning
at
Embroidery Studio
Metropolitan Cathedral
10-12pm
10th April

Karen

Congratulations to our own **Karen Scott**, who has been chosen to take part in an exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, along with seven other students. Karen is in her second year of a BA degree in Design at Liverpool Hope, specialising in Textiles.

Past students have included **June Howard and Janet Wilkinson.**

Speaking of Karen....she will be stepping down from her post as Treasurer this year as Autumn 2015 and most of 2016 will be the final year of her degree course and she will need all her time to concentrate on that.

This means that we will need a **new** Treasurer. The North West Regional Committee usually runs short courses for new people in such a role and they are very helpful.

HQ also have help for Treasurers on their website.

Karen has created some new systems to make the role as easy as possible and is happy to explain

Chairwoman's Chat

'Fun - Friendship - Fellowship'. You will see these words at the top of every Contact magazine that drops through your letterbox.

Lately, however, the changes that have been mooted for the Guild and the new initiatives for the branch have caused me to think what these words mean for our members.

The fun element is obvious.

Liverpool is renowned for its sense of humour and the Merseyside branch demonstrates this to the full. On the face of it, a talk about historical embroidery should be worthy but dull. Add in a Viking warrior in full battle dress or Sarah turning into a catwalk model for all sorts of costumes and it comes alive.

Anybody who has witnessed the buzz in the atmosphere at one of our parties (or the cutthroat competition and laughter generated by the raffle!) will understand what I mean.

Friendship is also a given, especially in a group of like-minded people. I know that my membership has brought me friends that I will

cherish for my lifetime. We now have a 'lunch table' at workshops and after the 'Bring and Stitch' sessions, so why not bring your lunch before a talk and join in?

Fellowship seems much the same, at first sight., but the dictionary describes it as 'participation, sharing: a community of interest'. Therein lies the key to a successful branch. We have been sharing our love of embroidery and textiles with other branches, such as Wirral, Parbold, Padgate and many others, with speakers travelling to and from these areas. Three members from Parbold are speaking in March at our talk. Members from the Isle of Man are hoping to come and visit us in May and attend our tea party. They are also hoping to enter our Colour Competition, so we will need plenty of our own entries to keep the prize in Liverpool!

As with most things in life, the more you put in, the more you get out of the branch. Richard Box's workshop was a deserved sell-out. In spite of

my usual hassle with the machine, I learned such a lot and Richard was a generous tutor, giving tips and help to everybody, as well as a wonderful Paddington Bear 'special hard stare' when members started to fiddle whilst he was speaking.

Next year we are busy organising some special events to celebrate 'Sixty Glorious Years' of the Merseyside Branch. This is your chance to get involved and help us to make the branch one that reflects what you would like it to be. We have had some excellent suggestions for activities and are working on them already. There will also be an exhibition at the Anglican Cathedral and a group project that you can join in. If you have an idea for a speaker, workshop or fun activity, let a member of the committee know. We are hoping to cram in as much as

possible to give you the best out of your membership and showcase the branch to the public. If you can join in this fellowship, the fun and the friendship can only increase.

Regional Day at Chelford

Chelford and North Cheshire Branch are hosting this year's Regional Day on the 25th April.

The venue is The Hallmark Hotel, Stanley Rd, Wilmslow SK9 3LD.

Louise Gardiner is the Madeira speaker and was a popular tutor with our Branch a few years ago. Just to remind/inform any of you who are unfamiliar with her work, it is described as a contemporary fusion of drawing, painting, appliqué and intricate free machine embroidery.

Louise graduated from Goldsmith's College 18 years ago and has completed a rich variety of commissions and exhibitions, most recently **COLLECT**, at the Saatchi Gallery. Her website is www.lougardiner.co.uk

The second speaker is **Carl Wilde**, a celebrity floral designer and collector.

Carl has gathered one of the largest collections in the world by the Queen of British Fashion, **Vivienne Westwood**.

Carl will present some of his favourite items including clothes, shoes, accessories and tableware along with many a humorous story to accompany them.

As some of you will know, Vivienne Westwood takes much of her inspiration from the clothes of figures throughout the ages as seen in paintings at The National Portrait Gallery.

The cost of the day is £25 including lunch and morning coffee. Lunch choices include Lancashire Hotpot, Chicken Pie in wine gravy with a pastry crust, or Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie, all served with seasonal vegetables or salad. There will be a choice of desserts.

We do hope that members will want to enter the **Rosebowl competition**

as Merseyside always seem to do well. The theme this year is 'Something Old, Something New.'

Traders will include Empress Mills, Dobeaddo Beads, Cheshire Needlework, Golden Hinde, a potter called Ruth Robinson who makes lovely ceramic beads, Viv-Jane for stamps, printing and cards and Waterstones.

If you would like to enter the Rosebowl competition or the Madeira competition, (no theme but Madeira thread must have been used somewhere on the piece), but do not wish to attend the Regional Day, a member of the committee will be pleased to take your entry and display it for you.

The closing date for ticket applications is April 11th but you should contact **Sarah** well before this time as tickets actually sold out one year before we could apply! Sarah can also supply competition forms.



Embroiderers' Guild

Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild

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Chair: [Kim Parkman](#)

Secretary: Sarah Lowes

We are a group of people who are interested in sewing, embroidery and textiles. We enjoy what we do and we love to see other people's work.

We aim to have a variety of meetings to try to cater for all members' needs and tastes.

We meet at All Hallows Church Hall, Greenhill Rd, Mossley Hill on the third Saturday of every month. Talks start at 2pm and finish by 4pm. Workshops start at 10am and finish at 4pm.

If you'd like to join, phone Vicky on 0151 475 3114.

If you'd like to know more about our 2013 programme, phone Marie on 0151 625 8349.

Welcoming stitchers of all levels

www.megonline.co.uk

What Inspires You? (Cont'd)

Pat Anscombe chose Van Gogh for his wonderful colours and Jan Beany and Jean Littlejohn for their helpful influence on her stitching style. "They just go full pelt and it helps me to be more free."

Gill Roberts cited Hockney for his draughtmanship and Klimt for his use of colour and imagery. Her biggest influence has been **Kaffe Fassett** for his flow, colour and way of making you see things differently. Gill and I have been lucky enough to meet Kaffe and he was every bit as kind and friendly as you might imagine.

Kate Robinson loves Elizabeth Blackadder for her composition, pattern and Japanese-influenced pieces, Vuillard for the same things plus flattened perspective. She feels inspired by both these artists and also Rachel Howard for her spare style and use of line and pattern.

Chris Bennett likes the figures and soft, impressionistic style of Degas and Renoir. She says that tutors from our workshops have helped her to develop her style and in particular, **Sarah Rakestraw** of **Golden Hinde**.

Kim Parkman said, "In my dreams I'd like to produce work like Ruth Issett and I love Cézanne's late work for its spaces and colours and Rembrandt for his use of light."

Mal Ralston chose Monet and Klimt for the dreamy atmosphere which their colours create and finds parallels with Alice Kettle in their freedom of expression.

Sheila Morris paid tribute to our own Vicky Williams as a tutor and influence and chose Van Gogh for his light and colour.

Elsie Watkins shared Kaffe Fassett as an influence with Gill, for his riot of colours and personality. She also

loves Grayson Perry and the way he tells a story with his textiles. She chose Rembrandt for his depiction of surface, colour, texture and character and Giotto for many of the same reasons.

Jenny Mullis loves Degas, the French Impressionists, Constable, the PreRaphaelites and sometimes, Surrealism.

Helen Patrick likes Grayson Perry and also Hockney's later work for the way it makes you look at things differently, making a picture out of something quite simple. As for influences, Helen says she likes to be unique and do her own thing!

Sarah likes 15th century Italian Madonnas, Rothko and the PreRaphaelites and the colours and combinations of Julia Caprara are a constant inspiration to me.

I hope this article may inspire you to take another look at some of the artists that have been mentioned.