

Aurata Embroidery Newsletter

Welcome back!

Welcome to the second issue of my newsletter. I'm sorry for the delay in getting this newsletter out, but as you can see from the picture on the left, I was busy getting married! Jonathan and I married on 17th February in the smallest ceremony we could manage in Rochester. There were just 6 of us and we had a lovely day and it was completely stress free!

In other news, I'm going into print! I've started work on a book about silk shading which is part of a series of Essential Stitch Guides bought out in conjunction with the Royal School of Needlework and published by Search Press. Crewelwork and Blackwork are out this year and Silk Shading will be out next year.

Don't forget to share your own work. Send me an image and a few accompanying words. Thank you to Lois for getting the ball rolling...

Sarah



Jonathan and I on our wedding day

What I'm up to....

I seem to be writing a lot these days! I have a project coming out in the April/May issue of 'Stitch with the Embroiderers Guild'. The project is stumpwork on canvas and the design is based on a 17th Century English embroidery with some modern twists. More in the next newsletter...

"I get satisfaction of three kinds. One is creating something, one is being paid for it and one is the feeling that I haven't just been sitting on my ass all afternoon."

- William F. Buckley

A-Z of Art

B is for... Blake

Full name: William Blake

Born: 28th November 1757 in London

Movement: Romantics

A little bit of info:

William Blake could turn his hand to many accomplishments including poetry, engraving, illumination, drawing and painting.

He was an eccentric person and claimed from early on in his life to have seen visions. The bible was to be a constant source of inspiration his whole life.

He enrolled for a while at the Royal Academy but rebelled against the traditional approach to art saying that it stifled his imagination.

He married Catherine Boucher in 1782 and taught her to read, write and engrave. The latter was to make her invaluable to his work as it was she who helped to print his illuminated poems and books.

He died in 1827 in London with his devoted wife by his side.

After his death, some of his manuscripts were burned for being too heretical or politically radical.



Detail from the title page of 'Jerusalem'

William Blake

A must see!

Embroidery, by its nature, is often very intricate. But next time you are working something small and getting frustrated because your hands feel like the hands of Gulliver, think of Willard Wigan's work...

www.willard-wigan.com

These have to be seen to be believed
(Yes this is the eye of a needle!)



Opening website links:

You should be able to view any of the underlined website links in this newsletter. All you have to do is hover your mouse over the link and click!

From start to finish

Canvas Stitches

I thought it would be appropriate to show my canvas stitches pieces as it was inspired by William Blake's Jerusalem title page shown on the previous page. I took a section of the winged figure and worked it on 18 count antique canvas in stranded cottons, wool and decorative threads.

The piece was an apprentice assignment worked in the first year of the RSN apprenticeship. It had to show shading and the blending of different stitches and be inspired by an artist of our own choice.



Working your own piece:

If you have a piece of work you are inspired by, don't be afraid to change it around and make it your own. If you aren't sure where to start, make yourself a small picture frame (cut two L-shapes out of a piece of paper) and use them to frame areas of the picture until you find something you like. Zoom in on an area or even turn the piece upside down!

New Website

Look out for my new look website coming soon. The plan is to put everything in one place, i.e. blog, shop and website info all in one!

There will be kits, embroidery accessories and handmade items for sale as well as news about classes and exhibitions. All of this will be available at:
www.sarahhomfray.com

Further afield...

Vancouver, Canada

After the excitement of the Winter Olympics, anyone still hanging around in Vancouver could pop into the Vancouver Art Gallery.

They have lots of stuff going on and current exhibitions include drawings by Leonardo Da Vinci and hand painted murals by Michael Lin on the exterior of the building. Check out the link below for more information:

www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/

Featured Work

Canvas Sampler

Every year I teach at In Stitches, a needlepoint shop in Portland, Oregon, USA. On my last visit we spent the week working on canvas samplers. Designs ranged from traditional to modern and everyone did a sampler unique to them.

The design below is one of those pieces, and is worked by Lois Miller. Lois wasn't afraid to have a go at something new and her fabulous design includes paper origami animals, copper wire, beads and a button all applied to a painted background.



Canvas Sampler – Lois Miller

In Stitches

The Finest Hand Painted Needlepoint Designs & Custom Finishing

In Stitches hold regular classes in needlepoint as well as Sip-n- Stitch every week, a chance for you to do some uninterrupted stitching! They are based in Forest Heights in Portland, Oregon, USA.

Follow the link below for more information:

www.institchespdx.com

UK Exhibition

Society of Botanical Artists – Silver Jubilee Exhibition

‘Botanical art bursts into bloom in April when the Society of Botanical Artists holds their annual London Open Exhibition between Friday 16 April and Sunday 25 April 2010. The season is a short one but a wonderful display is always guaranteed, especially this year when the Society celebrates its 25th birthday.’



www.soc-botanical-artists.org/exhibitions.php

Subscribe/unsubscribe information

If you have enjoyed this newsletter and think someone else you know may enjoy it also, please forward it on to them!

If you would prefer not to receive this in the future please e-mail me at the address in the contact section on the last page, entering “unsubscribe” in the subject box.

And finally...

Now selling on ETSY!

These egg cosies are made from felt and decorated with needle felting, hand stitching and beads. They are available through my Etsy shop:

www.sarahhomfray.etsy.com



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