



## Anne Griffiths :: Contemporary Textile Art :: July Newsletter

Dear all,

This month has passed so quickly, we are now at the heart of the summer and I am going round in circles!

I promised that during the "[Trees](#)" course that we would spend some time making tiny books and to that end I have been making samples. For this course, rather than stick to the normal square or rectangular format I thought I would try circles. I was initially going to use the books as diaries, inspired by the rings that a tree grows for each year of its life but I seem to have been sidetracked onto using them for storing quotes and design sources and I am now addicted!

Inside the book the pages fold out to be circular. I will make a set of four books each one a quarter of the circle. The books will each contain quotations, leaves, nuts and keys, and blossoms. Lots more images of these book pages and other samples for the course will be updated [here](#).



"Imagine" the hangings inspired by Alice in Wonderland continues at [Oxford Museum Gallery](#) until 1<sup>st</sup> September.



The process for creating the teapot pictures and hanging shown as part of the exhibition is featured in "Once Upon a Time ..." an article for this month's [Workbox](#) magazine. We are all seduced by new materials and techniques and this method for transferring images is simple and can be used for hand or machine embroidery.



I have have just finished teaching the second session of the [City & Guilds Level 1 Machine Embroidery](#) course at Denman College and some amazing work was produced. The pressure to get everything done in these two sessions is tough and this advertisement we used for one of the colour studies made us laugh and was quite appropriate when still working at 10.00 in the evening.

Everyone managed to get finished though and the C&G verifier was very impressed with the quantity and quality of work produced. Congratulations to everyone.

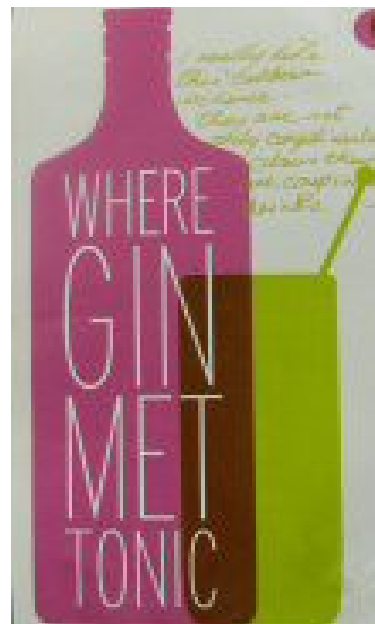
I have been thinking about new distance learning courses to offer, and am considering either the level 3 Machine Embroidery or the Embroidery (which covers both hand and machine stitch). These would normally take 2 years to complete in college and I would anticipate about the same time as a distance course. There is also the possibility of getting the certification for these courses or the current level 2 Machine Embroidery this would incur an additional fee to cover C&G registration and the costs of verification. If you are interested in any of these options then do get in touch as it will assist me in knowing the level of interest.

There have been three units completed on the current Machine Embroidery Distance Learning course this month, to see samples, click on the following links [Unit Two - Chris DeClerqg](#), [Unit Three – Isabelle Davis](#) and [Unit Three – Nicky Villarlad](#). In Unit Four the first assignment piece is completed and I am really looking forward to seeing these soon. I do hope that there may be an example to show next month.



Other teaching coming up will be a day using transfer paints to create backgrounds for stitch at the beautiful [Courthill Centre](#) in South Oxfordshire on 5<sup>th</sup> September. During this class we will investigate using these paints on different fabrics and begin to stitch paper and fabric either by hand with machine embroidery.

My final thought this month regarding workshops is [Zentangle](#)®. Zentangle is a new process for design, originating in the USA. Lesley Roberts is a certified Zentangle tutor having trained with the company in America and we have been investigating running a course together where she would teach the techniques of Zentangle and then I would show how to develop these ideas into a stitched piece. The process would run as two one day workshops later in the year at Courthill. If you are interested or would like to find out more then please let me know in order that we can gauge the viability of such a course.





Finally, a little about a gallery I had not visited before but have always meant to go to...



The [Saatchi Gallery](#) was opened over 25 years ago with the aim of presenting work by largely unseen young artists. In October 2008 it moved from its home at County Hall to the Duke of York HQ building on King's Road, Chelsea.

It is currently showing "[Paper](#)" an exhibition of work by 45 artists whose work includes sculpture, collage and photography. The work of [Yuken Teruya](#) particularly caught my eye, not because of the subject matter, but because of the way he has recycled the space inside paper bags as tiny galleries. The delicate trees are cut from the top of the bag and folded in. This allows light into the space and creates shadows. In some of the pieces the colours of the paper have defined

different moods. The red and yellow a MacDonald's bag give a feeling of the glorious golds of autumn.

There is a huge diversity of work in the exhibition and well worth the visit.

Look out for Marcelo Jacome's paper Kite Planes which take up a whole gallery on the first floor!



Enjoy the rest of the summer and I will look forward to hearing from you. Until next month.

Best wishes,

Anne