

# NEWSLETTER No.2

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## *Highlights of 2009*

It has been quite a challenging, yet exciting, year. I feel that words can not completely convey my memories of 2009. Sabrina and I have pulled together a few of the visual highlights of the activities at our studio from the past year.

This year we have introduced a series of shorter courses - Special Interest Courses - in addition to all of the usual Certificate and Diploma Courses that are ongoing. There have been three Certificate exhibitions of students work as you will see by the table of contents above. We also hosted an Open Studio Tour weekend in the Spring of 2009.

Have a look at our website to see our new courses for 2010.

*Gail Harker*



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## Special Interest Courses

1.  
2.



3.A

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### 1. Transform and Adorn with an Embellishing Machine

Creating new surfaces and pattern decorations from a wide range of colorful fabrics, wools and threads was an exhilarating experience for the group that attended June Steegstra's course.

### 2. Elizabethan Stitches

We looked at and worked with such a lot of exciting stitches. So many flowers and fruits covered everything.

### 3.A. and B. Inspiration to Imagination with your Camera

Getting to know your camera to create interesting pictures using principles of design was the mantra of this course.



## Special Interest Courses



3.B



4.



5.



6.

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### **4. A Journey of Visual Discovery: Journals and Sketchbooks**

Students developed self confidence and really enjoyed the process of making art in their sketchbooks.

### **5. Collage Decollage: mixed media**

Barbara DePirro and the students created magical images with a diverse range of acrylic medium.

### **6. The Essence of Nature in Machine Stitch**

Students worked with the property of materials and their sewing machine to create a likeness of natural images. They quickly filled a small sketchbook with inspirational sample ideas.

## *Influences of the Northwest*



**Graduate** Students walk the beaches on Whidbey Island for inspiration to photograph, design and stitch. Students work in the center studio to develop the ideas further. An exhibition of their work will be shown at our center beginning April 10, 2010.





## Level 1 Art & Design: Color Studies

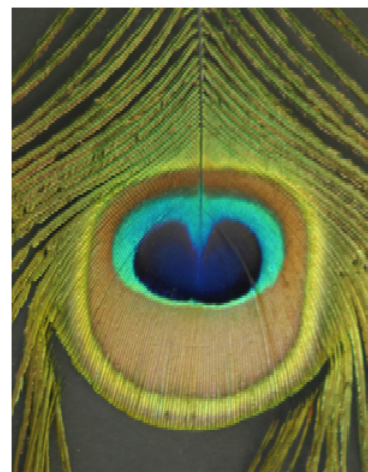


A record number of people attended our 5 day and 2 day color courses this year.

The course consisted of three main areas:

1. Immersed in Color - Symbols and Association
2. Color Demystified - Color wheels and color mixing
3. Expressions through Color - systematic and Natural Color Schemes.

Students felt empowered to create a sketchbook packed with practical color theory and another smaller sketchbook spilling over with approximately 40 color schemes.



## Travel to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada



Everyone in this special Color Course held in Salt Spring Island comes from an Island - but not the same one. I travelled from Whidbey Island in Washington to teach the class, others are from Salt Spring and Vancouver with the furthest participant from Hawaii. Karen Tottman, owner of *Stitches* and other Canadian students from our center graciously hosted and organized an exhibition open to the public. Carol Leach hosted a dinner while Susan Paynter gave us the use of living space while we were there.



## Travel to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

### A Sketchbook Class

was held in Victoria over Halloween weekend for the Embroiderers Guild of Victoria. As Don and I were driving back to catch the ferry, we saw how organized and beautiful the pumpkins looked as they were all lined up by the side of the road waiting to be picked up for garbage collection - yet another thing to draw in my sketchbook!

Barbara Gilbert graciously hosted the event and dinner for the group.



## **Exhibition Feb. 28 2009 - Morning Glories** *Studies in Art & Design, Level 3*



© Nancy Brones



© Karen Tottman

Towards the conclusion of the course, students compile a portfolio and create a hand made book developing an inspirational theme of their own choice.

Design analysis is an important feature of the course.

The Course also involves learning to work with the Principles of Art in a practical manner.

The course started in May of 2007 and students graduated in March of 2009. They attended eight sessions of five day duration (320 instructional hours.) An exhibition of their artwork culminated the experience at our center in Oak Harbor, Washington.



## **Exhibition Feb. 28 2009 - Morning Glories** *Studies in Art & Design, Level 3*



# Exhibition Sept. 12 2009 - Peonies

## *Advanced Studies in Experimental Stitch, Level 3*

This group of students focused on design translation into projects in fabric, paper or stitch. A portfolio of samples, three dimensional item, framed piece and a wallhanging are the project items for the course. Students chose their own design theme, images and choice of techniques for the completed items. The course marries hand, machine and design concepts.

The course started in late November of 2007 and students graduated in September of 2009. They attended eight sessions of five day duration (336 instructional hours.) Their experience culminated in an exhibition of artwork at our center in Oak Harbor, Washington.



© Susan Lenarz



© Moira Kloster



## Exhibition Sept. 12 2009 - Peonies

*Advanced Studies in Experimental Stitch, Level 3*



## **Exhibition Sept. 19 2009 - Foxgloves**

*Studies in Design & Experimental Hand Stitch, Level 2*



Most of the photos above show the students at work in the classroom. Two of the photos show Indian textiles on the walls from one of the session's historic studies.

Students dye and paint their fabrics and work with the fundamentals of color and design as it relates to contemporary technique and stitch. They study an historic collection of ethnic embroideries to gain analytical skills and understanding of how stitch works within a context. They create a portfolio of hand stitched samples and work towards a hand embroidered book and binding of their own design and choice of technique employed. The course started in April of 2008 and students graduated in September of 2009. They attended seven sessions each of five days duration (277 instructional hours.) The course was capped with an exhibition of their artwork at our the center.



© Betty Caskey



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