

# NEWSLETTER No. 6

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Happy Holidays to you,

In 2014 we will be celebrating 20 years operating our school in North America. Thanks to all of you for being involved in this educational artistic venture. It makes a difference to have a dynamic support group such as you.

An exhibition titled *Complex Threads* was shown at The Schack Art Center in Everett. Three classes have graduated this year with new courses starting up. Our online strength is growing with a mentored online *Level 1 Color Course* in addition to 2 new Self Paced Sketchbook courses: *Designing with Circles 1 and 2*.

Have a look at our website for upcoming courses this year. We are still firming up other new class dates for 2014 and will be sending an e-mail detailing those offerings.

*The Tour of the Glories of British Textiles:* The dates are: Oct. 6 - Oct. 20th, 2014. More information will be available early in the year.

*Gail Harker*

**Our mission** at the Gail Harker Center for Creative Arts is the development of individual artistic expression within a contemporary context. We are dedicated to providing an enriching experience to learn and appreciate art, design, stitch (embroidery) and other textile art forms. Our aim is to see stitch celebrated as an art form.



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## A Blog that is a Newsletter



I have been writing a blog for our center since April 2010 and chose a reputable Blog hosting site - *Wordpress*. Before this I didn't know what a blog was! The word sounded like a kind of heathen practice. What I had seen and read about blogs didn't inspire me. By nature I am a modest person and didn't want to relate stories just about me. I had no idea how our students would respond to a blog or if I could handle the technology.

### Communicate Art and Stitch Ideas

My vision is to communicate with and inspire our students, most who live in the U.S.A. and Canada with a few people sprinkled in Australia, Britain, Switzerland and Belgium. Many of the programs that run at our studio extend over a time period up to 2 or 3 years. Classes keep in touch with each other and we forge close relationships. The blog seems to be a really good way to show and tell what is going on at our center. Whenever we have an exhibition, I place a few pictures from each student on a blog along with their *artists statements* and comments. Past and present students are invited to be guest bloggers - to write a paragraph or two and send in a few pictures. Mostly I write, preview and upload pictures into the wee hours of the morning myself.

### It All Takes Time

I have now written 242 posts (little stories) and have posted hundreds of pictures. We have many followers. Followers are those people who are sent an email every time I write a new blog. We have had **61,337 views** since 2010. (Viewers are those who look at the blogs but are not emailed about them.) Each blog takes me approximately 1 hour to post from beginning to end. I have to admit it often takes me longer as I am fussy about getting the images just right and sometimes I make mistakes with the process.

### Comments and Feedback

I like to think that the blog is a positive storytelling device and is an important landmark in the history of Art and Stitch today. The blog began with my students in mind but since then hundreds of other interested textile people also started reading it. I appreciate your feedback and thoughts. This blog is for you. You can do that by *commenting* on the blog itself or email me. Send me ideas for a blog, consider writing one and let me know what you are interested in. We have placed links to the blogs that relate to this newsletter. Please visit us and make a comment.

### Online Blogs

Online Course Level 1 Color is a mentored course that begins a few times each year. Each class has their own private blog to see pictures of fellow students color work. The outside world doesn't usually get to see this. We are very proud of our online students too and we sometimes make a feature of their work on our Center Blog.

## Here's What Our Blog Looks Like

The screenshot shows a blog post from the Gail Harker Center for Creative Arts. The header features a colorful abstract painting and the text "Gail Harker Center for Creative Arts". Below the header, the tagline "Celebrating Art, Design and Stitch" is visible. The main content area displays the post title "In Contact with Nature.....Guest Blogger – Elisa Miller" and the date "DECEMBER 18, 2013". The post includes a photograph of a plant branch with yellow leaves and a text block titled "Level 4 Experimental Research for Advanced Design – Elisa Miller". The text describes the author's approach to design, inspired by nature. To the right of the main content, there is a sidebar with a "Visit our Web site" link, a "Find us on Facebook" link, a copyright notice, a "SEARCH" box, an "EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION" form, and "CATEGORIES" and "ARCHIVES" dropdown menus. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a large abstract painting.

**Gail Harker Center for Creative Arts**

Celebrating Art, Design and Stitch

**In Contact with Nature.....Guest Blogger – Elisa Miller**

DECEMBER 18, 2013

Tags: Art and Design, nature

**Level 4 Experimental Research for Advanced Design – Elisa Miller**

I chose Nature's way of attachment and detachment for a design theme because I live close to nature. Every day I can be in contact with nature, see, learn, etc.

My personal approach - after I see something I like visually – is to try to understand what is going on. For instance, why is the knot still attached when the whole stump is in decay? I enjoy the very detail of knowing how nature works. I remember learning how the silk on an ear of corn works – each strand of silk creates ONE kernel on the ear of corn. I then remember the silk strands, how they flow, they are so beautiful and graceful and that inhabits my world when I am designing.

Thanks to Elisa for showing her work on the blog. You can click the pause button at the bottom of the picture to be able to read some of the text more easily. The description of her work is from her research statement. She completed this course in March 2010 – Gail

Visit our Web site at [www.gailcreativestudies.com](http://www.gailcreativestudies.com)

Find us on Facebook

All artworks and text by guest artists are the intellectual property of the artist who created them, and are so copyrighted and used herein with their permission. All text and photographs, unless that of our guests, is the copyrighted property of the Gail Harker Creative Studies Center. Content of this site may not be reproduced in any form.

SEARCH

type and press enter

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Click to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 520 other followers

Sign me up!

CATEGORIES

Select Category

ARCHIVES

Select Month

December 2013

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
» Nov						

As this is only snapshot of the blog it is fuzzy and you will not to be able to make it work on this page.

## Close-up of the Right Column of the Blog

### SEARCH

type and press enter

Search by typing in a keyword.

### EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Click to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 232 other followers

Sign me up!

Here's where you add your email address if you would like to be notified each time a new blog is posted. A link is included in the email so you don't have to navigate to the blog each time.

### CATEGORIES

Select Category

Click here and you will see all categories to choose from. Each course has a category heading.

### ARCHIVES

Select Month

December 2013

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
◀ Nov						

All of the dates that are in color are the time in the month that a new blog has been posted. Click on here and you will be able to see that particular post.

Yes, I know this picture is fuzzy as it is just a snapshot of the real blog.



## *Unique Blog Categories*

We have a number of unique categories on our Blog. Our students travel far and wide and send us pictures or create a blog. We are very interested in all aspects of design and textiles. It is thrilling to see what is going on in different parts of the world.

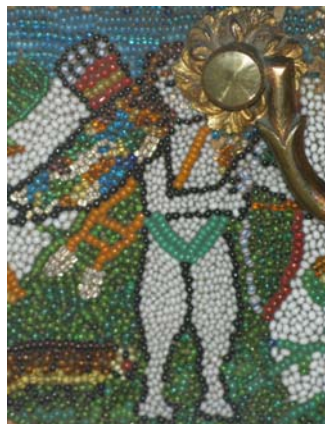
### **Museums Galleries**

#### *Macedonian Costumes #2*

**Historical Textiles** has a number of entries that are from U.S.A; and from other parts of the world:

#### *Aunt Bess's Crazy Patchwork*

#### *Winter Solstice Embroidery*



## At Work in our Office and Studio



Colleen Harker: Book keeper



Penny Peters - working with Gail in many areas



Sabrina Bradley - Administration and  
Wearer of Many Hats



Glynn Jones - Office assistant and Girl  
Friday

Thanks to these very special people who work with me. Everybody does their share and more.



## At Work in our Office and Studio



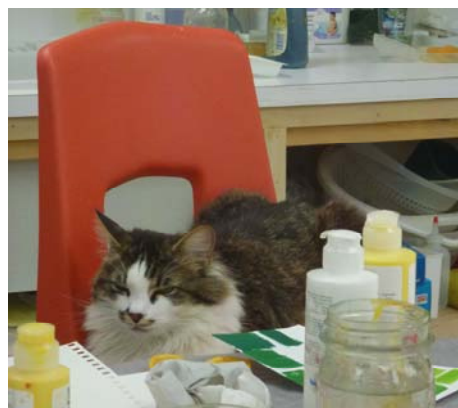
Gail and Don sharing a moment at the Bellflowers exhibition.

Don often bakes goodies for the ladies while they are here. Here are some food links that have been posted:

[\*Tea Sandwiches\*](#)

[\*Don's Oven roasted Tomato Sauce\*](#)

[\*Chocolate Brownies for Artists\*](#)



## Complex Threads Exhibition



In January of 2013 *Complex Threads: Students of Gail Harker*, an exhibition of the work of more than 40 students opened at the Schack Art Center in Everett, WA. The exhibition ran through March and was well attended. Pieces were collected from as far as Alaska and Southern California. The exhibit showcased the diverse artwork produced by each of these students as they followed their path, and provided a great opportunity for the public to experience contemporary textile art.





## Complex Threads Exhibition

Blog Post: [\*Sixty One Ways to Enjoy Yourself\*](#)



© Ellen Anderson

## Level 4 Studies in Experimental Stitch and Multi Media Topaze - Diploma Exhibition



Blog Posts:

*[Hanging Out With The Girls](#)*

*[Visions in Multi Media – guest blogger: Cathy Jo Hall](#)*

*[My Russian Heritage in Design and Stitch – guest blogger: Marcia Romashko](#)*

*[Learn to See and the Rest will Follow – guest blogger: Liz Cooper](#)*

*[Designing with Needle and Thread is a Lifetime Goal – guest blogger: Barbara Gilbert](#)*

## Studies in Art and Design Level 3 - Bellflowers Exhibition



Here are a few Blogs featuring the work of the Bellflowers:

*[The Ballad of Harker's Gang](#)*

*[Needlework has Been My Passion – guest blogger: Pat Ross](#)*

*[Art Books with Paints and Paper – guest blogger: Wanda Costuros](#)*

*[Conversations in Color and Design - guest blogger: Maria Patrizzi](#)*

*[Spirals – a Themed Experience – guest blogger: Mical Middaugh](#)*

*[Aloha Spirit of Hawaii – guest blogger: Pennie Hardwick](#)*

*[Creating Designs for Fiber Art – guest blogger: Sara Judith](#)*



© Sarah Judith



## Exhibition - For the Love of Books



**149 books** were on display from Oct. 4 - 7, 2013 at our center and have been created by **39 students** during their courses. There were paper books with design themes, fabric books with embroidery themes, small bead and stitch books. There were also some amazingly large books. Visitors were in awe. Perhaps we'll do this again. Blog Post: [For the Love Of Books](#)

## Quilt Fest Volunteers



A special thanks to the volunteers who helped set-up and greet visitors to our booth at the La Conner Quilt and Textile Museum's Quilt Fest this year: Linda Ingham, Nancy Drake, Marilyn Olson, Nancy Hanson, Alba Romero, Wendy James, Christina Fairley-Erickson, and Penny Peters.

## Skagit Valley Art Escape



This year we participated in a new venture, Skagit Valley Art Escape, with Artist Demonstrations at The Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner on the first Saturday evening of the month.

Thank you to our featured artists over the past months: Marie Plakos, Gwen Lowery, Maria Patrizzi and Sandy Little. We will start again in April 2014 when our first artist will be Lisa Harkins



## The Joy of Circles Auction



© Penny Peters

Our Second Annual Online Auction held on December 10th, 2013 helped us raise just over \$2000 toward the establishment of a permanent Gallery space.

Blog posts:

*Artwork from the color wheel – guest blogger: Maria Patrizzi*

*The Joy of Circles Auction*

## Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch Blazing Stars & Dayflowers - a 5 day course



**Blazing Stars:** Students dyed threads and fabrics to create a small stitch book



A stitch sketchbook was started in each course. This is a teaching sample.



A small felt stitch book begins in class.  
© Dianne Corso

Next Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch course begins: March 26, 2014

Blog Post: [The Art of the Needle](#)



## Level 1 Experimental Machine Stitch Vervain & Honesty- a 5 day course



Above: June Steegstra assisted me with the **Vervain** class in Feb.



Left: Linda Ingham assisted me with the **Honesty** class in Sept.

Next level 1 Machine Embroidery Course  
begins: January 29, 2014

Blog Posts:

*[Stitching with Hare or Tortoise Setting](#)*

*[The Sewing Machine Needle as Designer's Tool](#)*



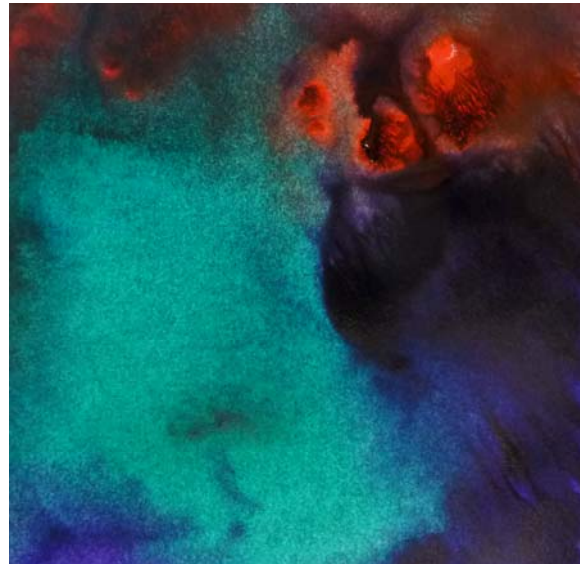
© Terry Rammel

## Level 1 Color Claret Cups & Fairybells

5 days full of color including charts, scales, wheels and color schemes using acrylic paints. We work in 2 sizes of sketchbook. Class on right in June:  
**Claret Cups**



© Mary Martin



© Joann Sherman

The **Fairybells** met in December, this year but unfortunately I didn't take any pictures. Sorry, ladies.

Here's a link to a blog for the Claret Cups: [An Itten Color Experience](#)



## Level 1 Color Studies Online

**Unit 1**  
Color Theory  
and  
Symbolic  
Associations



**Unit 2**  
Color Mixing  
and  
Extended  
Color Theory



**Unit 3**  
Natural and  
Systematic  
Color  
Schemes



**Next Course  
Begins:  
February. 11, 2014**  
Each group has a private  
blog to see group pictures.

Blog Posts:

*My Journey Into Color – guest blogger: Roz DeBoer*

*Developing and Enhancing my Color Sense – guest blogger: Ann-Marie Andresen*



## Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand and Machine Stitch - Waterlilies



Most of this group completed a 6 session course in June 2013. 5 days make 1 session. Although they didn't have a formal exhibit, they organized a showing of their coursework for the group and for a few invited guests at the conclusion. They also exhibited in Montana this past year.



Nancy Drake - small bead book

View the Waterlilies pictures and stories by clicking on these blogs.

*We Laughed, Groaned and Danced  
Our Way Through The Course –  
guest bloggers: Lynette Barnes and  
Patty Olds*

*Passion for Fiber Art – guest  
bloggers: Ruth Lane and Nancy  
Drake*

## Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand and Machine Stitch - Bergamot



This group started the course May 15, 2013. They will be going into Session 4 of 6 in March, 2014.



Session 1 - students are working with dye colors and a variety of fabrics and threads.



## Level 3 Studies in Art & Design - Chocolate Flowers



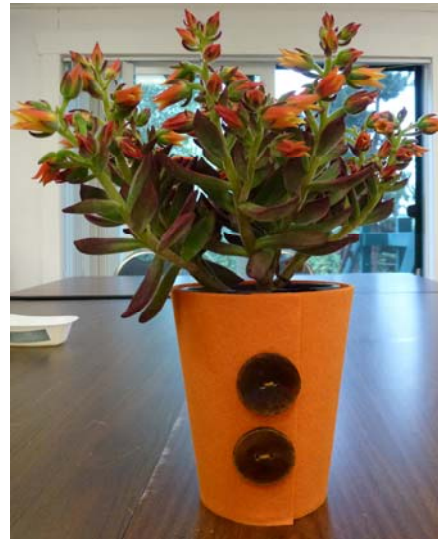
This is an 8 session course that students can enter after Level 1 Color Studies.



*Refer to Bellflowers Exhibition page for lots of links about Level 3 work.*



## Level 3 Studies in Art & Design - Calendula



Blog Post:

*Right Brain, Left Brain . . . Journey Through Art and Design*

## Experimental Research for Advanced Design Level 4 - Garnets



There are nine students in this class and they have just completed session 5 of 8. Each session is 5 days in duration. The Garnets are well on their way towards completion of finished items. It is challenging to work large scale but also very interesting. Their exhibition date is August 10 & 11, 2014. Don't miss their exhibition.

Here are some links to past blogs I have written about the Garnets in 2013:

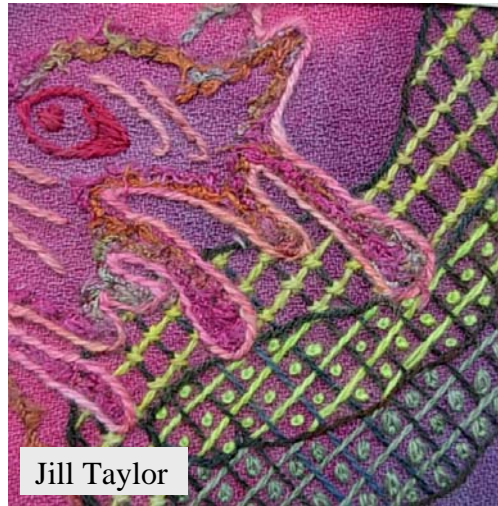
[\*Block Printing and Collography\*](#)

[\*Maria Patrizzi's Art of Paper Casting\*](#)

[\*Designers take a Break on the Swinomish Channel\*](#)



## Level 4 Studies in Experimental Stitch and Multi Media Opals - Diploma

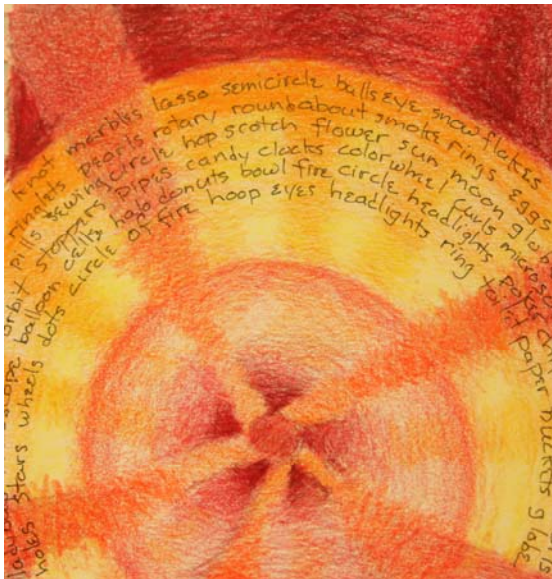
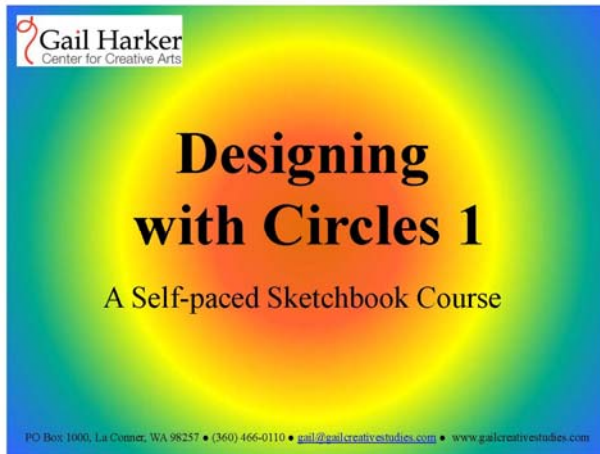


This group is the highest level that we have working at our center. Their course consists of eight 5-day sessions. Watch for their exhibition November 15 & 16, 2014.

Here is a link to a post about the Opals: [Gold Work Boot Camp](#)



## Designing with Circles 1- Online Self Paced Course



© Lin Folsom

## Designing with Circles 1

**Testimonial:** First, thanks for creating an on-line course that fits a need for people who can't attend classes in person for whatever reason. I really enjoyed it and benefited from taking it.

I think it is really well thought out and laid out. It is easy to access information and cross reference and I like being able to return to a certain section if I need to. The videos are clear and encouraging as well as inspiring.

As an artist and art therapist I had different needs than your average student. While educated in fine arts in England at high school and junior college level, I was weak in color and design so this was an eye opener and filled in an important gap. While I am already familiar with the materials and use of different media, I picked up useful tips about introducing them to my cancer patients and others who have limited art experience. As we make visual journals I also picked up some ideas for future projects using circles and designs with them in simple form depending on their health abilities etc.

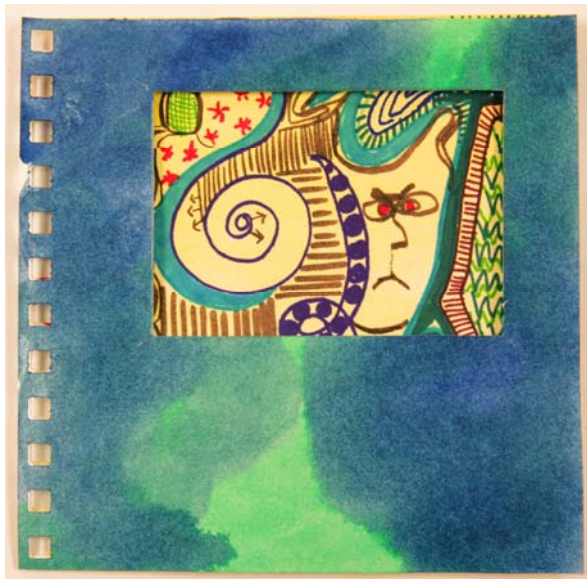
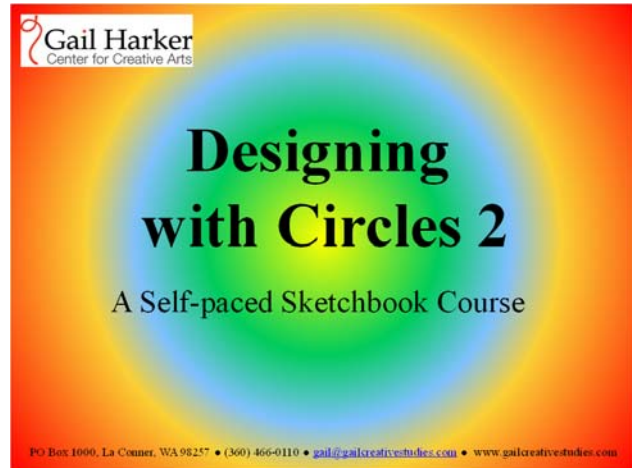
- Margaret Arnett

Thanks for your contribution to making the world a more colorful and creative place!

## Designing with Circles 2 - Online Self Paced Course

*I am so pleased to have completed both Circles 1 and 2 self paced online courses in 2013 and have them available for students. People have asked what is the difference between them. The answer: Each book has different methods to learn about design, make circles, and create exciting sketchbooks. Read more by clicking on to the links.*

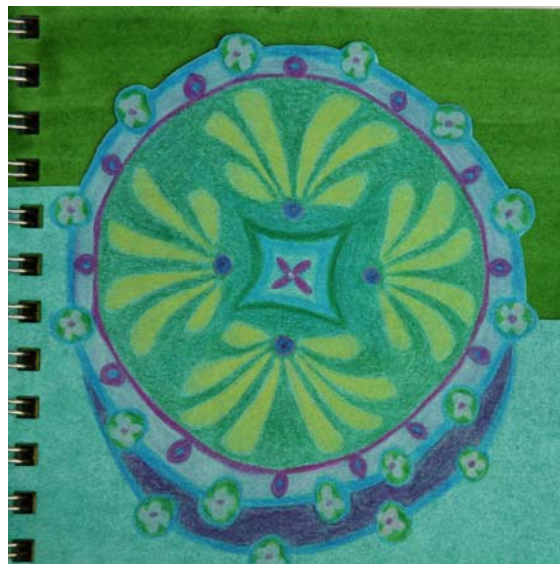
*- Gail*



[Designing with Circles 2](#)



*Special Interest Courses with Gail*  
**Designing with Circles at the Studio**



Bottom left: Barbara Fox. Top and bottom right: Wendy James  
We spent 5 days at the studio working with colored pencils, acrylic paints and felt tip pens to make a sketchbook.



## Impromptu Talk by Anita Luvera Mayer

Anita gave a short talk to Level 2 Experimental Hand and Stitch Class - Bergamot. She showed and described her theme study for Part 2 City & Guilds Diploma Course.



© Anita Luvera Mayer

See more of Anita's work in our online [Gallery](#).

*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**Surface Design with Natural Dyes and  
Immersion Dyeing with Natural Dye Extracts**  
Tutor: Dana Webb



Blog Posts:

*A Love Affair with Ancient Earth  
Hues – guest blogger: Dana Webb*

*Daydreams in Color – guest blogger:  
Frances Underwood*



Photos and artwork: Dana Webb



*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**Impressionistic Landscapes in Acrylic &  
Impressionistic Landscapes in Collage & Stitch**  
Tutor: Richard Box



For posts about Richard's classes see more on these links:

*[Richard Box and Impressionism](#)*

*[Cezanne and Smarties – guest blogger: Laura Smith](#)*





*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**The Sculptural Form, Tutor: Barbara DePirro**



Blog Post:

*Inspiration and the Sculptural Form – guest blogger: Barbara DePirro*

*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**Wheat Paste Explorations  
and  
The Extreme Photo Album**  
Tutor: Martha Cole



To see pictures of these  
classes and their  
exciting work click  
[here](#) and [here](#).



© Joan Butterfield



*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**Stumpwork Embroidery, Tutor: Lisa Harkins**



Left: sample by Terry Rammel, Right: sample by Christina Erickson



Blog Post:

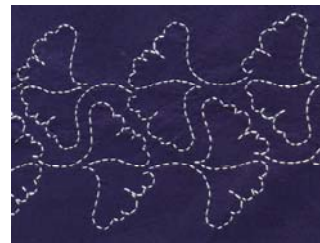
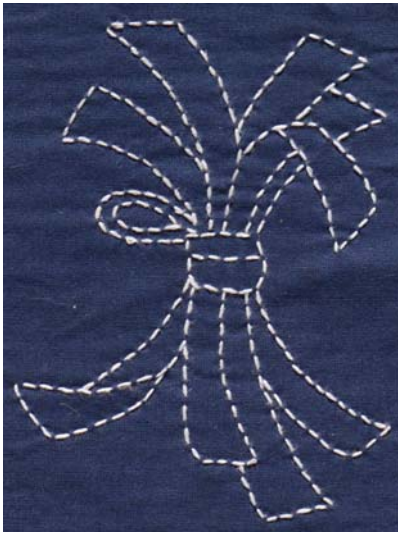
*Raised Embroidery - A Tribute to Barbara Hirst*



© Lisa Harkins



*Special Interest Courses - Guest Tutors*  
**Sashiko Stitches - Barbara Gilbert**



Barbara describes the history of this Japanese blue and white embroidery and showed some of the older pieces in her collection. The students worked with traditional Sashiko motifs to design individual creations. All in a day.



Barn House, in La Conner WA.