

# NEWSLETTER No. 4

## What's Inside:

We Make a Move .....	pages 2 - 3
Level Classes .....	pages 4 - 11
Level 2 Classes .....	pages 12 - 17
Level 3 Classes .....	pages 18 - 22
Level 3 Classes .....	pages 23 - 24
Special Interest Courses .....	pages 25 - 29



Happy Holidays to you,  
This has been a year of growth and movement. A move to our new school at The Barn in La Conner, WA and the addition of our first online course in Color. This letter shows visuals of some of the courses at our center and many smiling faces. Thank you for being part of our school. Sabrina Bradley, Bobbi

Leyva and Don Harker are a vital part of our team. Lisa Harkins still joins us from time to time.

We are firming up new class dates for 2012 and will soon be sending an e-mail detailing those offerings.

*Gail Harker*

**Our mission** at the Gail Harker Creative Studies Center 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.



**Gail Harker Creative Studies Center**  
**PO Box 1000**  
**La Conner, WA 98257**  
**Phone (360) 466-0110, Fax (360) 707-7188**  
**[gail@gailcreativestudies.com](mailto:gail@gailcreativestudies.com)**  
**[www.gailcreativestudies.com](http://www.gailcreativestudies.com)**

## A Move from Oak Harbor . . .



*Opportunity knocked  
and we packed up our  
school in Oak Harbor  
to move to La Conner.*

*Top Right: Barn House  
in La Conner.  
Bottom Right: Tulip  
field in the Spring  
around us.*



## to La Conner in Summer



## Level 1 Color Studies in Oak Harbor Tiger Flowers





## Level 1 Color Studies at Barn House Satin Flowers



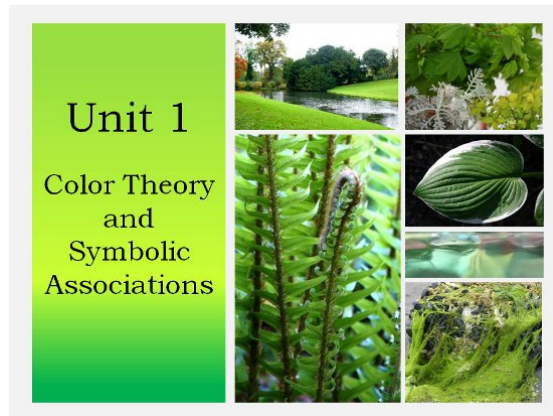
*Students attend a 5-day session at the studio and begin to create 2 sketchbooks full of color exercises and to share the experience of color making.*



## Level 1 Color Studies Online

**Blushing Angels**, our first group of 26 students, are working through Unit 1 right now. No pictures to show you just yet. It proves to be a very exciting experience.

**Next Course Begins:  
Jan. 12, 2012**



- ♦ Three units make up the entire course.
- ♦ There are videos, slide presentations, student notes and conferences.



## Behind the Scenes for Level 1 Color Studies Online Course



Preparing step by step demonstrations and materials for 28 videos and similar number of slide shows for students has kept us busy here. Other photos show setting up the room with video and sound equipment ready for a day of making videos.



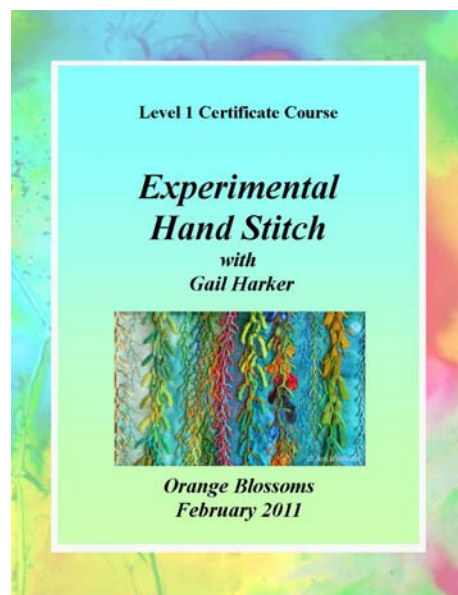
## Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch Orange Blossoms



*Level One Experimental Hand Stitch students dyed fabrics, threads and sketchbook papers in order to create stitch samples. At the end of five days work, it was satisfying to review the projects in progress along with the colored sketchbook paper and fabric.*



An array of stitched samples and dyed threads





## Level 1 Experimental Hand Stitch Flame Flowers



*Below and right:  
Dyeing threads before  
we stitch and then re-  
winding them is all part  
of the preparation to  
stitching. Right: Sorting  
out a tangle*



Penny Peters (blue shirt) and I  
work with the students.

## Level 1 Experimental Machine Stitch Lewisia

*Students see fabrics as a source of imaginative artistic possibility in Level 1 Experimental Machine Stitch. Every type of fabric has a unique quality that lends itself to particular techniques. Understanding the characteristics of the fabrics, the machine and threads is as important to a textile artist as wood and its qualities are to a woodworking artist.*



*The class completed a portfolio of fourteen machine embroidered samples. Each sample featured a new technique or patterned effect. The piece shown above is stitched with an organic grid-like pattern. The line patterns made with machine stitches and burning reminded people of ancient patterns or some organic natural movement.*



## Level 1 Experimental Machine Stitch Calliandra



*June Steegstra (small inset picture above) and Gail work with the students.*

## Level 2 Hand and Machine Stitch - Heather

### *Kantha Embroidery - Seen Through Western Eyes*



*Deb Mitchell is designing a bird and also making color, fabric and thread choices for an original design*

February 2011 Penny Peters and I hung a small exhibit of embroideries from India in the studio. Saris, shawls, clothing and cow horn covers were part of the colorful array of items that graced the walls and tables. Students studied the embroidery by drawing motifs from a particular item and made notes about the stitching. They studied the designs and patterns on the pieces as well. It was fun to make stitch studies to replicate some of the mark making done so freely with line and stitch. Students then designed a motif of their own to work in stitch. There are so many ways of using running and darning stitches to tell a story. So simple and at the same time so complex. Of course it is all seen through western eyes. Our study of the pieces would be understood differently than the people who actually made the embroideries. Our commonality is that we all have an appreciation of the beauty of stitch.



*Drawing motifs from Indian Embroidery*



## Trumpeter Swans Pay us a Visit



*We rushed upstairs in Barn House to take pictures of the trumpeter swans who flew in to different fields around us during the month of October. Heather - Level 2 Experimental Hand and Machine Stitch group were here for their 5th session.*

## Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand Stitch - Paper Flowers Exhibit



*Handmade book above: Anne Brooks-Middleton*

*Students dyed and painted fabrics and worked with the fundamentals of color and design. They created a portfolio of hand stitched samples, fashioned a machine embroidered book and binding of their own design. They attended seven sessions each of 5 day duration (277 instructional hours.) The final session culminated in an exhibition of their work.*



## Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand Stitch - Paper Flowers Exhibit

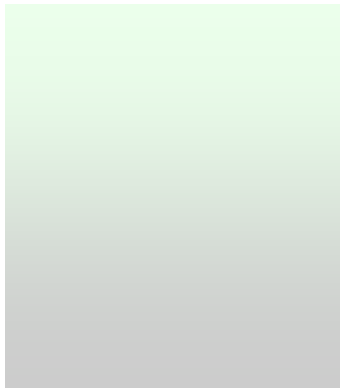


*Paper Flowers Exhibit*  
*Hand-made book: Lynda Williamson*  
*Flowers: Lisa Harkins*



*Paper Flowers Exhibit*  
*Hand-made book: Lorraine Ross*

## Level 2 Studies in Design and Experimental Hand Stitch - Paper Flowers Exhibit



*Left: Embroidered Book, Kate Briller*

*Bottom: Embroidered Book,  
Leslie Barnes*





## Open Studio - Artists in Residence at Paper Flowers Exhibit



*Working artists in the Studio  
surrounded by their artwork:*

*Above: Bobbi Larson  
Below: Penny Peters*



## Studies in Art and Design Level 3 - Wintergreen

### Colors Schemes of Nature

Spring time is such an awakening of plant growth and color. These new colors, either in the landscape or in plants and flowers themselves help to remind me of Nature's color schemes. All of the theorists in the world could not have imagined such a panoply of riches. The **Wintergreen**, one of our Art and Design groups each walked into the classroom with a bit of nature and proceeded to make color studies with paints and colored pencils.



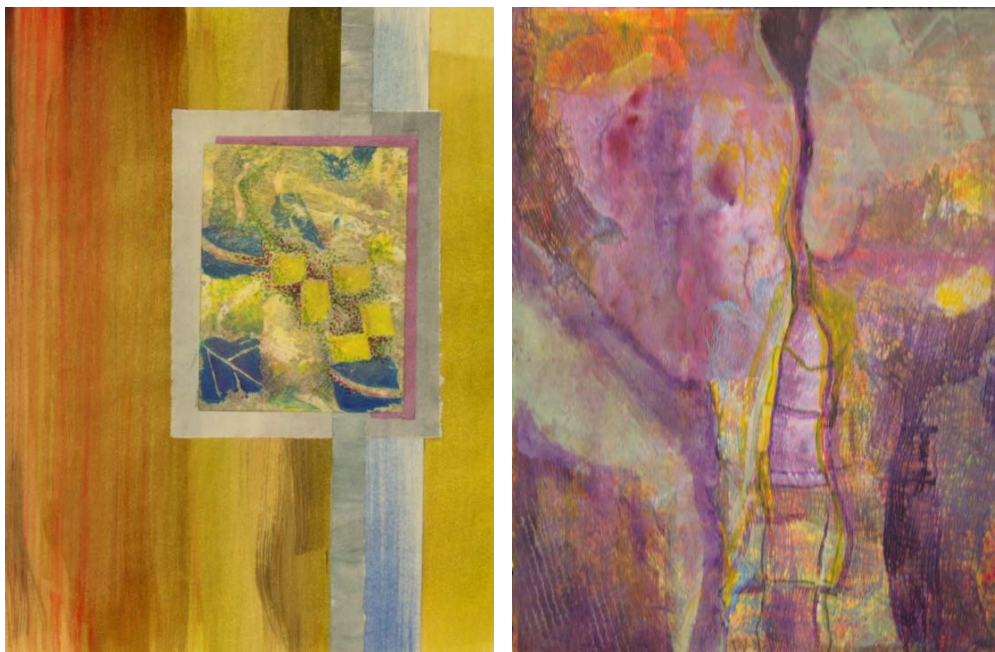
Students are eligible for Level 3 immediately after Level 1 Color Studies—no Level 2 exists. Each of 8 5-day sessions consists of new work in art and design. Students work with many media and learn how to design and develop themes of work.



## Studies in Art and Design Level 3 - Wintergreen



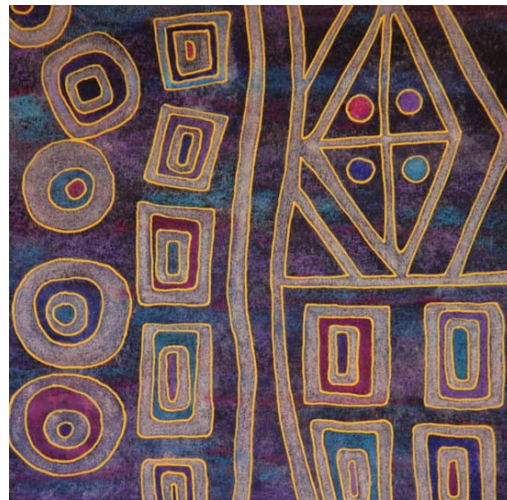
## Studies in Art and Design Level 3 Periwinkles Exhibition



*Artwork: Left: Marny Stevens Right: B.J. Arnold  
First Exhibition in Barn House - 375 people attended.*



## Studies in Art and Design Level 3 Periwinkles Exhibition



*Artwork: Top Left: Nancy Scagliotti Top Right: Marny Stevenson  
Bottom Left: Stephanie Metzger Bottom Right: Jarina Moss*

## Advanced Studies in Experimental Stitch Level 3 - Calypso



*Mark your Calendars!  
This group will be Exhibiting  
April 14 & 15 2012*





## Experimental Research for Advanced Design Level 4 - Sapphires



*A Celebratory toast to the 6th session held in Barn House. This group attends 8 5-day sessions over 2 years.*

***Sapphires will Exhibit May 19 & 20 2012***

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



*Topaze  
will be  
Exhibiting  
June 16 & 17  
2012*





*Special Interest Courses*  
**Guest Tutor Martha Cole**



*Hand-made book: Martha Cole*



*Wheat Paste and  
Book Structures  
for the  
Adventurous*

*The Painted Book*



*Hand-made book: Karen Nelson*



*Special Interest Courses*  
**Innovative Stitched Book and Bindings**



*Caroline Whereatt*



*Mary Telford*

*Stumpwork Tu-  
tor Lisa Harkins  
and students  
showing com-  
pleted birds*



**Stumpwork Embroidery**  
*Techniques in Dimensionality*  
*with Lisa Harkins*

*For a brief time in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, there flourished a fantastic and charming form of embroidery that still inspires textile artists today – stumpwork, or raised embroidery. Lisa (middle) led a weekend class where the students completed a small dimensional bird.*



*Barbara Hirst*



## *Special Interest Courses*



### **Materiality: Acrylic and Mixed Media** *with Barbara DePirro*



### **Millefiori Felt with Valerie Stein**



## *Special Interest Courses*

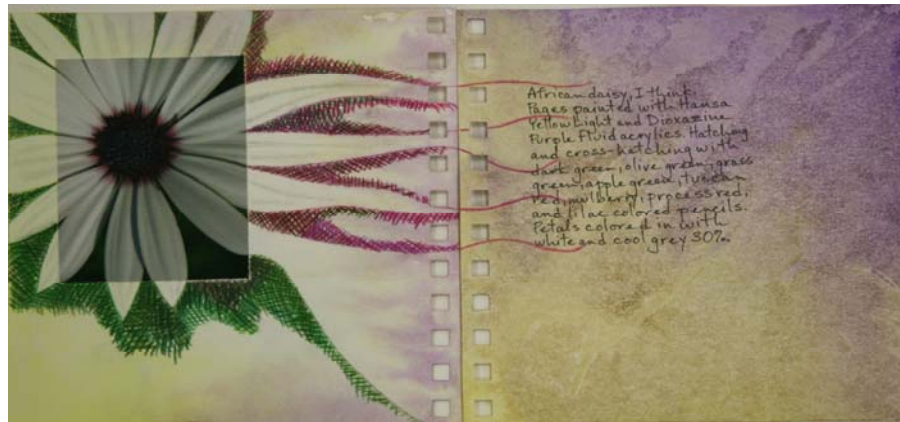
# Sketchbooks: A Journey of Visual Discovery



*Sketchbook - Gail Harker*



*Special Interest Courses*  
**Sketchbooks: A Journey of Visual Discovery**



© JoAnne Rieger

*Coming Soon!*

***Online Sketchbooks Series***

*Until now, we have run these popular classes for students at our studio.  
Watch for our online Sketchbook Series coming in the New Year.  
Send us an email if you would like to be added to the Interested List.*



© Christina Erickson



© Richard Box

*Richard Box will be  
joining us again in  
March of 2012.*

*There is still time to  
register for one of  
these fabulous  
courses:*

**Drawing and Painting for the Terrified**

9 - 13 March, 2012 (5 Days)

**Picture it in Collage and Stitch**

16 - 18 March , 2012 (3 Days)

*Brochures and registrations sheets available at out website.*

