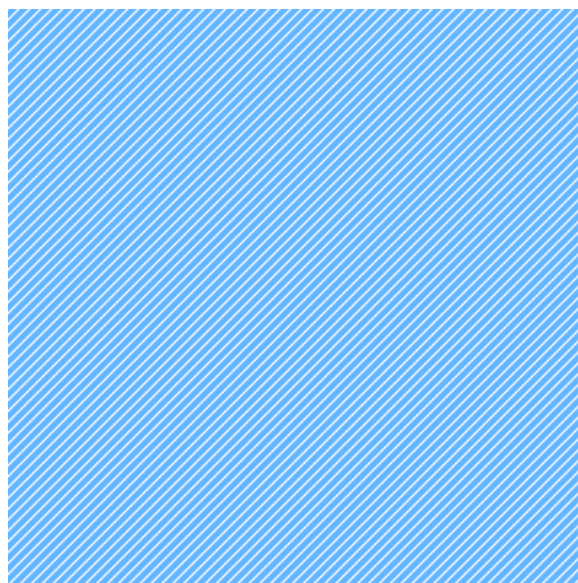


Hemmed in:

*Embroidery and Needlework
from MK and Beyond*

7 December 2012 –
6 January 2013



About the Exhibition

Organised with MK Embroiderers' Guild and Jamie Chalmers, otherwise known as Mr X Stitch, *Hemmed In* presents work from the 1930s to the present by over 70 local and international practitioners. The exhibition charts the evolution, throughout the 20th century, of embroidery from domestic decoration to high art, including needlework using unusual media, techniques and unexpected subject matter.

Cube Gallery

Selected from the Embroiderers' Guild National Collection, the Cube Gallery includes works of National and historical significance by artists whose influence in sustaining a design-led, high quality approach is widely recognised. In the early-mid 20th century Elizabeth Grace Thompson and Beryl Dean were both significant figures, breathing life into stitch and nurturing excellence through the Royal School of Needlework, with courses focused on design, execution and colour. Over the last 30 years embroiderers have challenged the traditional use of materials and techniques. Jan Beaney and Jean Littlejohn have become pioneers in creating work with modern materials while Clyde Olliver's embroidery on slate pushes the boundaries of what defines textile art.

Middle Gallery

MK Embroiderers' Guild (MKEG) is Milton Keynes' local branch of the nation's leading craft organisation and was established in 1998. Each year the Chair sets a creative challenge for the members; this year's task, an exploration of constraint, was to represent 'Milton Keynes in an eight-inch square', by creating small, needle and thread portraits of their favourite aspects of MK. The results constitute a real celebration of the city in stitch, with works varying from local scenes and landmarks such as Ray Smith's Chain Reaction and concrete cows to flowers, maps and more abstract designs, and have been created using a range of techniques and materials. The Middle Gallery also includes selected works from embroiderers who have inspired and mentored MKEG over the years, providing insights on new materials, techniques and contemporary design.

Long Gallery

The work in the Long Gallery was selected by Jamie Chalmers, who presents a cross-section of the new direction embroidery is taking internationally. This diverse selection is far from 'Hemmed In', either in scale, media or content; delicate pieces such as Diem Chau's embroidery on porcelain or Cate Hursthouse's side table sit alongside bold quilts by Luke Haynes and Ben Venom. The work includes thought provoking subject matter such as Erin Endicott's *Healing Sutras* and Erin Riley's shotgun tapestries, alongside work which draws directly from the imagery of popular culture. There is an intriguing use of found materials such as Sarah Greave's bath tub or Severija Inčirauskaitė-Kriaunevičienė's car door which juxtaposes the imagery and language of everyday life alongside the history of embroidery as a traditional craft. Collectively these works demonstrate a radical shift in the artistic approach to embroidery over recent years, where artists are reaching beyond its origins as a domestic decoration and readily engaging with the concerns of contemporary art and design practice.

The exhibition has been co-curated by Cheryl Montgomery, Chair of the Milton Keynes Embroiderers Guild and Jamie Chalmers (Mr X Stitch).

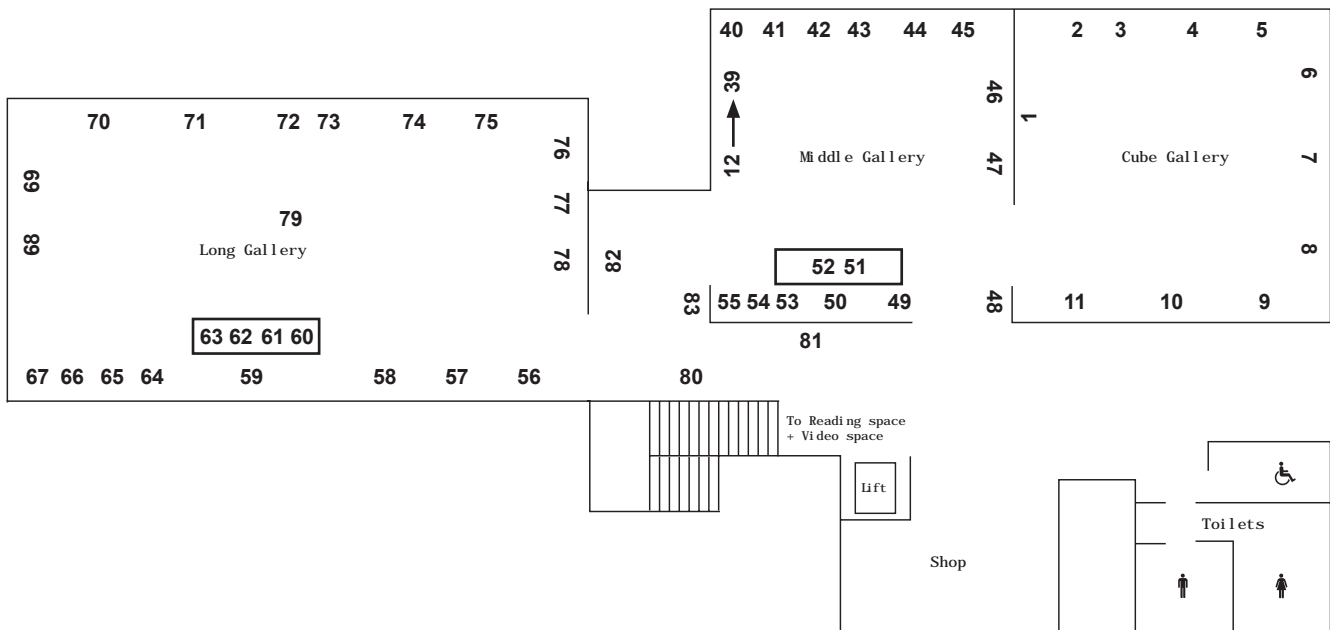
MK Embroiderers' Guild

Established in 1998, the MK Embroiderers' Guild currently comprises 40 members who meet monthly for activities and talks by a wide range of artists and creators. Membership is available to anyone interested in textiles and stitch, contact embroiderymk@aol.com for further information.

Jamie Chalmers (Mr X Stitch)

Jamie Chalmers is both a cross-stitch practitioner and an active leader in the online stitch community, and what he has dubbed the 'new embroidery movement'. He is the author of the publication PUSH Stitchery, a contemporary exploration of embroidery, needlecraft, quilting and textile arts that transforms the way people think about these traditional mediums. And as a 'fibre arts' blogger and curator he presents a steady stream of contemporary indie stitch artists who push the limits in their mediums; from tattoo-inspired stumpwork (3D embroidery), to pinup cross-stitch and embroidered metal. www.mrxstitch.com

Some of the works are for sale. For more information about prices or the individual artists please ask at the Information Desk.



Cube Gallery

Embroiderers' Guild National Collection

1. Jean Draper
Indian Squares, 1985
Mixed media
2. Elizabeth Grace Thompson
My Mother, 1935
Hand Embroidery
3. Beryl Dean
Firebird, 1950
Embroidery
4. Elizabeth Grace Thompson
Chords, 1934
Appliqué
5. Susannah Hope
Portrait, 1990
Hand embroidery, mixed media
6. Julia Caprara
Chanting cloth, truth like a full earthen bowl - Burma 2007, 2008
Hand embroidery, pieced cloth
7. Richard Box
Geraniums, 1986
Machine embroidery over fabric scraps
8. Jan Beaney
Landscape within a landscape, 1989
Machine embroidery over fabric pieces
9. Clyde Olliver
Untitled, 1998
Stitched slate
10. Dionne Swift
FGS Tea, FGS eyes shut, Typewriter II, Blown stitches, 2012
Needle punch felt

11. Alice Kettle
Tranquil figure, 1987
Machine embroidery

All works courtesy of the
National Embroiderers' Guild

Middle Gallery

MK Embroiderers' Guild

*MK Embroiderers' Guild
Milton Keynes in an eight inch square*,
2012
Embroidered canvas

Left to right, top to bottom:

12. Julie Ryan
Patchwork Town Sampler
13. Joan Knight
Railway Bridge over the Canal
14. Joyce Fortune
MK = OU
15. Vicki Parsons
Canalware
16. Suzanne Miles
City Heartbeat
17. Dot Wood
Aspects of MK
18. Diane Blackmore
Keeping Watch
19. Janet Bradley
Millennium Stony
20. Chris Paul
Chain Reaction
21. Kathy Heffegée
Windmill at New Bradwell
22. Joyce Ferneé
Christ the Cornerstone
23. Cheryl Montgomery
AB1 : CMK
24. Margaret Eyres
Peace Pagoda
25. Bonnie White
The Real Milton Keynes
26. Margaret Reavill
Daisies on the Grass
27. Margaret Pratt
Island Life
28. Jackie Siggers
Mapping MK
29. Margaret Hulatt
Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon
30. Diana Tybjerg
St Peter and St Paul, Olney
31. Janet McCook
Midsummer Glazing
32. Stephanie Thannhauser
Skyline with Bike
33. Kathy Wilkinson
Boats at Willen
34. Margaret Hulatt
The Grand Union Canal near Black Horse Wood

35. Katie Thomas
The Iron Trunk

36. Jean England
Ouse River and Bridge at Stony

37. Sue Jones
Ray Smith's Chain Reaction

38. Thelma Robinson
Trees, Poppies and Xscape

39. Bonnie White
Iconic Cows

**Artists selected by
MK Embroiderers' Guild**

40. Janet Edmonds
Excursions in my mind, 2008
and *Circles of my mind*, 2007
Vessels – wrapped cotton fabric

41. Margaret Pratt
Oyster Shell, 2010
Quilted fabric

42. Sandra Meech
Polar Meltdown I, 2009-11
Machine embroidery, mixed media

43. Mary Sleight
Blue Fold, 2010
Hand stitched dyed paper and fabric

44. Val Aitken
Landscape Under Colour, 2011
Machine and hand stitched layered fabric

45. Jennie Rayment
Magnolia Dusk, 2003
Quilted fabric

46. Margaret Pratt
Art Deco, 2011
Quilted fabric

47. Jan Beaney
Skala Eressos: A Celebration, 2009
Machine and hand stitched fabric

48. Jean Littlejohn
...of fretted shrines, 2010
Embroidered fabric

49. Sally Hutson
Pockets of Constraint, 2012
Machine embroidery and appliqué

50. Kathleen Laurel Sage
Japanese Apple Blossom Fan, 2011

51. Isobel Hall
Celtic bag, 2012
Bubble wrap fabric with textured kozo paper panel

52. Janet Edmonds
Sample books, 2000
Hand stitch and metal thread techniques

53. Angie Hughes
Small Blue Thing, 2007
Embroidered velvet

54. Linda Miller
An Eight Inch Square, 2012
Machine embroidered canvas

55. Madeleine Millington
The Owl and the Pussycat, 2012
Appliqué with dyed, recycled blanket

Long Gallery

Artists selected by Jamie Chalmers

56. Jessica Wohl (United States)
White-faced Girl, 2012
Embroidered found photograph

57. Kirsty Whitlock (UK)
Losses, 2009-10
Digital print and embroidered newspaper

58. Hagar Vardimon (Netherlands)
The Hog and The Horse, 2012
Embroidered paper

59. Mr X Stitch (UK)
Whitby Abbey at Sunset, 2011
and *Panika*, 2010
Cross-stitch

60. Rachel Rose (United States)
Rapture and Cities in Dust, 2012
Embroidered 7 inch record sleeve

61. Karen Grenfell (UK)
OMG and Jump, 2012
Hand embroidery on painted canvas

62. Mr X Stitch (UK)
Obey, 2011
Hand embroidery

63. Diem Chau (United States)
Union, Red Chair and Ruby Slippers, 2012
Embroidered silk organza on porcelain

64. Bridgeen Gillespie (UK)
Rock n Roll Outlaws, 2012
Hand embroidery

65. Joetta Maue (United States)
2 sides to the story..., 2012
Hand embroidered found linen

66. Penny Nickels (United States)
Women Rise Up, 2011
Hand embroidered cotton

67. Spike Dennis (UK)
Circle of Life (Black), 2012
Hand embroidered linen

68. Severija Inčirauskaitė-Kriaunevičienė
(Lithuania)
Way of Roses, 2007
Cross-stitch on metal (found car door)

69. Luke Haynes (United States)
Flat Glen, 2009
Quilted fabric

70. Erin Riley (United States)
Loot 4, 2011 and *Loot 5*, 2012
Hand woven wool tapestries

71. Erin Endicott (United States)
Healing Sutras, 2011-12
Hand embroidered vintage fabric

72. Cate Hursthouse (UK)
Un-homely Furnishings - Side Table, 2012
Found table, found mat and stitched fabric

73. Zoe Williams (United States)
Gold Rhino and Saola, 2011
Needle felted wool and mixed media

74. Tilleke Schwarz (Netherlands)
Playground, 2008 and *Welcome to the real world*, 2011
Hand embroidered linen

75. Sarah Greaves (UK)
Blue Door, 2008
Embroidered found wood

76. Karen Grenfell (UK)
Hellfire, 2012
Hand embroidered fabric

77. Ben Venom (United States)
Night Knife, 2012
Quilted fabric and found heavy metal t-shirts

78. Lucky Jackson (Canada)
Come back to the 5 and Dime, 2011
Appliqué and machine embroidery

79. Sarah Greaves (UK)
Bath Tub, 2011
Hand embroidered bath

Foyer

80. Zoe Williams (United States)
10 Hummingbirds, 2010
Needle felted wool and mixed media

81. Beryl Dean (UK)
Altar Frontage, 1969
Hand embroidery

On loan with thanks to the Multi-faith
Chaplaincy Department at Chelsea &
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Trust, in association with Hospital Arts, and
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82. Rosie James (UK)
City Streets, 2012
Machine embroidery and appliqué on
screen printed canvas

83. Cheryl Montgomery
Spirals are Free: Essay on Hundertwasser,
2012
Embroidered fabric