



Eastern Region Textile Forum  
*taking textiles forward*

## ERTF SUMMER BULLETIN – August 2019

### CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you have been having a wonderful summer with lots of fulfilling creative work. I will just comment on a few areas that are covered in more depth in the rest of this newsletter.

Janet Edmonds described the work submitted for the Making of a Market Town as 'cracking'. She said the standard had improved since the last selection meeting and thought the work was exciting, diverse and very interesting.

The Challenge squares, which are excellent, are being mounted individually on card for display. Alison White is running a workshop for us on the last Sunday of the exhibition and we thank her in advance.

St Albans Museum is very professionally run with high standards. Flea, Carole and I continue to meet with them. We are now in the process of producing boards, labels and discussing the layout and hanging. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend the private view on September 13 6-8pm and/or visit. We look forward to seeing you.

'A Sense of Place', to be considered in its widest sense, is our next exhibition at the Spotlight Gallery in Hoddesdon, 10 August – 18 September 2020. Further details follow. We often have to go with the suggestions in which a gallery is interested, but as a committee we try to choose a title which can be very broad to suit all our members.

Thank you to Liz for collating and chasing us for contributions to what is always an informative and useful bulletin. Please do not forget to use our new website which is important for promoting ERTF, attracting new members as well as keeping the group informed.

ERTF continues to thrive, thanks to you all.

Very best wishes

Sue Dunkerley

### Editor's Note

This year your committee have been involved in an enormous amount of hard work which has resulted in a wonderful range of exhibitions and conferences to look forward to over at least the next two years, and an organization on a very sound financial footing with a lovely new website for all members to engage with too. There are plenty of ways all members can keep the group thriving, by not just taking part, but also by offering help to organize or support even just one of our events. Please keep those offers coming in!

**ST ALBANS MUSEUM & GALLERY EXHIBITION**  
**“The Making of a Market Town”: 7 September to 3 November 2019**



**Submission and selection process report**

*From Flea Cooke*

Twenty six members submitted for this exhibition, at St Albans Museum and Art Gallery, opening on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. Although the exhibition is in St Albans, the range of work was a true representation of the richly diverse Eastern Region, with inspiration from the history of the market towns, their buildings and local products, as well as the contemporary hustle and bustle of market day. There were some fascinating stories behind several pieces.

Those who responded to the brief submitted an amazing range of work, some of exceptionally high standard, and all the selected pieces are of high quality and finish. There was a good balance between wall hung and freestanding 3D work and a varied range of scales and sizes. The only issues arising were the weight of one or two of the largest pieces, which might prove challenging to hang as a result, but we will do our best! This is a point for future exhibitions. Another issue that arose was the quality of finish on some of the pieces, and we discussed the possibility of addressing ways to improve this maybe with a workshop or session at some future event.

We had a very productive selection day on Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup>, and the show promises to be a credit to the ERTF.

**Group Challenge**

To enhance our forthcoming St Albans exhibition, we have given all members the opportunity to take part in a group challenge, whether they are already committed to taking part or just want to do a smaller piece. A diverse selection of squares has been gratefully received. Carole and Flea are mounting them now to be ready for hanging at the exhibition.

**Setting up, Hanging and PV**

The exhibition will open on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and run until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019. Packaging can be stored at the gallery under the display cases. The space allocated to us includes the East and West Wing and the connecting corridor. The rooms have both walls and display cases so can include both 2D and 3D artworks.

**The Private View will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

### **ERTF EXHIBITIONS AHEAD:**

Your committee has been really busy checking out venues and sorting themes. They should be congratulated for coming up with the following:

#### **THE SPOTLIGHT GALLERY, High Street, Hoddesdon, EN11 8BE**

**“A sense of place”**

**10 August – 18 September 2020**

**This will be a non-selected exhibition. The Gallery takes a 10% commission.**

*From Sue Dunkerley*

This gallery is part of The Spotlight theatre complex in Hoddesdon in the Borough of Broxbourne. It is a well-frequented space throughout the day with a good footfall. There is plenty of parking at the gallery. When Carole and I visited, several pieces of the current exhibition had been sold which apparently is usually the case.

I would like to clarify that the title does **not** refer to solely to a landscape or seascape. This is a broad-brush title. It can, among other things, refer to somewhere/something of importance to you, be about memories or belonging, a moment in time, it can be a building or object and could be completely imaginary. As long as you can connect your piece to the title in your artist's statement, it will be fine.

To clarify size, the maximum size is 70cm x 70cm but the piece can be any size smaller within these boundaries. Unfortunately, there is no provision for 3D pieces and the maximum weight should be no more than 2 to 3 kgs. Please bear in mind that pieces have to be transported and carried by committee members.

If you have any queries please email Carole and me. We hope you enjoy preparing and working your pieces.

#### **PARNDON MILL, Harlow, CM20 2HP**

**Title – “Flower power”**

**17 May - 25 June 2021**

**This will be a selected exhibition. More details will be given in due course.**

### **ERTF CONFERENCES AHEAD:**

**19 October 2019:** Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

**Speaker: Cas Holmes - ‘Painting with Cloth’ – Booking now.....**

[www.casholmestextiles.co.uk](http://www.casholmestextiles.co.uk)



Cas trained in fine arts and works between the disciplines of painting, drawing and textiles. Salvaged materials are torn, cut and re-assembled to create mixed media pieces, which draw their inspiration from ‘hidden’ or ‘overlooked’ observations of daily life. She likes to use the remnants of domestic life, rags and cloths, pieces of old clothing that are handled and worn, evidencing ‘human contact’. She makes reference to the views from windows, the weeds and flora on the roadside verges and field edges, and the places where gardens meet the ‘greater landscape’. She describes her process as ‘stitch-sketching’ and ‘painting with cloth’, as she seeks to capture a moment or thing before it is gone. This talk will

focus on this approach to creating works in cloth and references other artists in connection to the landscape. This is also the focus for her fourth book with Batford, now out, *Landscape: Painting with Cloth*.

## **Workshop – ‘Using the Found, Extreme Stitching’**

Explore the character and qualities of paper and found material as a surface for working. A focus on hand stitching as an extension of mark making and various means of manipulating, attaching and joining surfaces. We use different threads to build up a range of distressed, torn, manipulated and collage surfaces to create new elements of interest in your work. Some of the methods are adapted from Japanese paper techniques such as Origami and rub-crinkled paper techniques. The pieces resulting from this creative exploration could be used as a starting point for collage, stitching, 3D or sculptural work.

Participants are provided with a basic workshop list specific to the course, which is largely centred on the creative re-use of the materials you may have available. Old domestic (not valuable) fabrics or scraps that can be recycled as well as copies of paper items, maps, photos and items gathered on your day-to-day journeys are useful things to collect... and they should all fit in one bag. This can reflect your theme, a place special to you, be colour-inspired and/or poems or words that express the feeling of your ideas. A fragment of textile, a handkerchief, napkin or a piece of embroidery can be used as both a base and a starting point.

**25 April 2020: AGM and Conference: St Mark’s College, Audley End, Saffron Walden, CB11 4JT**

**Speaker: Julia Triston: ‘Intimacy and Identity’**

[www.juliatriston.com](http://www.juliatriston.com)



Julia Triston is a professional artist, maker, educator and author in stitched textiles, and contemporary art and design techniques. She is fascinated with the journey textiles take and intrigued by the wear and tear of her raw materials, and the memories they hold. Her raw materials include vintage lace, reclaimed household linen, discarded embroideries, second-hand clothing and previously worn underwear. She is interested in detail, and combines fastenings and straps with raw edges and seams to become features in her pieces. Julia teaches and exhibits internationally and is an active member of the Textile Study Group. She also runs StitchBusiness, an independent, international stitch school. Julia is also co-author of two popular Batsford titles: *How to be Creative in Textile Art* and *Contemporary Appliqué*.

## **Workshop: Julia Triston: ‘Rip It Up and Start Again’**

**17 October 2020: Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE**

**Speaker: Kathleen Sage Thompson**

**Theme for talk and workshop: ‘Colour Washed and Surface Stitched Garden Memories’**

[www.kathleenlaurelsage.co.uk](http://www.kathleenlaurelsage.co.uk)

## **News ahead for 2021!**

We have successfully booked:

Debbie Lyddon for our 24 April AGM and Conference 2021 in the Saffron Walden area

blog: [debbielyddon.wordpress.com](http://debbielyddon.wordpress.com)

and

Richard McVetis for our 16 October 2021 Conference in the Hemel Hempstead area, with a theme of "Marking Time".

[www.richardmcvetis.co.uk](http://www.richardmcvetis.co.uk)

## **WEBSITE**

**The lovely new website is up and running. Please do look at it, update your entry and email Deborah Richardson with any queries or with current events you want to share with other members.**

[www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk](http://www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk)

## **BULLETIN**

**The next bulletin will be circulated in October 2019, with a deadline of items to be included of 14 October 2019.**

**Text should be sent as a word document or as an email and ideally less than 100 words in length. All photographs should be emailed separately (not embedded in text) and in high quality resolution. Please note that only website addresses can be published. No personal phone numbers, email or postal addresses can be given in this newsletter as it is put on the public access area on our website.**

**Committee and other linked contact details are available separately.**

**Liz Holliday**