

LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS & CREATIONS

Dear Colleagues

Carole has very kindly agreed to put together Lockdown Newsletter 4 as the previous 3 have been so well received.

Tuesday 10 November was our most recent **Committee Meeting**. It was very productive and I would like to thank the Committee for their continued hard work and support. Obviously, future events continue to be in state of flux so fingers crossed for a reliable vaccine. I include a short summary of the topics discussed below.

Exhibitions

We will hold the exhibitions, 'A Sense of Place' and 'Flower Power' at some point so please keep your pieces for the former and continue to work on your pieces for the latter. We may not get much notice so it would be best to be prepared.

- **Courtyard Arts, Hertford**, are not holding any exhibitions until after Easter next year at the earliest. We keep in regular contact and they know we are ready to exhibit.
- **Parndon Mill, Harlow** is still closed. Carole will send paperwork to members for this early next year so that we are in a position to proceed as and when.
- **Hyde Hall, 'Changing Climate' 2022**. Please do look at the video on our ERTF website which Frances produced to help start our preparation for this large exhibition. Christine Chester is producing a video workshop for us that may offer techniques, which inspire you for this exhibition. It will be available for us on her website, at a cost of £25, in January and further details will be sent to you when it is ready.

Conferences

- **17 April Ickleton Village Hall, Cambridge, Debbie Lyddon**. This is a large hall where social distancing will be possible but we will confirm this event when we are sure that it can happen.

We have 48 members. There is now a 'Members Showcase' page on the website so please email Frances if you would like her to post an advert for a relevant event. Hannah has set the Instagram page up. Do contact her if she can help in any way. All the letters for the ERTF Banner have been completed and Carole and I will work on combining these when we can meet inside.

We will continue to keep you updated. Please do keep in touch if you require any help or support. Our next Committee Meeting is 26 January 2021.

Happy creating,
Sue

CHRISTINE CHESTER – JANUARY 2021
VIDEO LINK WORKSHOP
TO SUPPORT OUR RHS HYDE HALL EXHIBITION
JUNE 2022 “CHANGING EARTH”

Textiles with Tissue – a Mixed Media Introduction

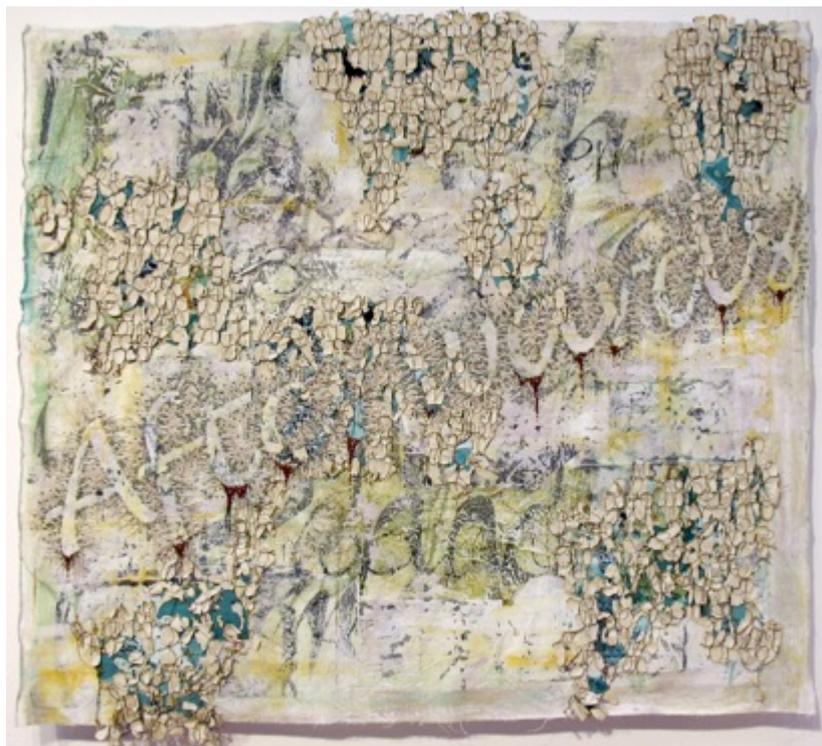
Tissue paper is something we all have lying in drawers – from left over packets for gift-wrapping to the wrappings around special clothes or shopping items. We keep it because ‘it will come in useful one day’!

This short course will give you ideas of how you might use some of that leftover tissue – or new tissue – in your textile work. We will colour it, use it to colour fabric, laminate it and create collage material with it.

Most of the equipment you will need will be in your house/drawers already, and you can use alternative media to some of my suggested ones if you have difficulty getting hold of a couple of the more specialist items.

The video will be broken down into useful sections so that you can watch one section and work from it before moving on to the next rather than trying to remember everything from watching in one sitting.

If you’d like to see Christine’s work, here is the link to her website
<https://www.christinechester.com>



Palimpsest

NORAH STOCKER – "FREEDOM OF SOUL"

Hello everyone hope you are all well as can be. What a strange life we are all leading together in this chaotic world. So much changes daily now all at such a rapid pace. I find the anxiety and stress makes me create quite prolifically to keep my mind focused. So, on to a little of what I have been doing.

Studio - is now on the top floor in building centre of the village. I have been working on my next solo exhibition 2021! The exhibition is called "FREEDOM OF SOUL", abstract art paintings textiles and photography.

Then on Wednesday the UK was called into second lockdown. Sadly that building has closed whilst lockdown is in place. This has been my sanity throughout, where I paint larger canvases. So now back in bijou home creating smaller everything.

Inspiration - has returned from my photography, as I became a member of Marks Hall Estate so near me. And this has given me the wonderful colours of autumn to play with. The millennium garden is so beautiful, full of trees and plants from Asia. Pinks, ochre, burgundy, just beautiful. Sanity is focused again. Autumn Glory takes over my art world.

Courses online - To be honest after the first 12-week lockdown I am all zoomed and podcasted out. But during summer I did an online Louise Fletcher, Find Your Joy, 10 week programme which was fun, fast and inspiring. It also had a great forum of 600 members across the world and we are still in touch, which is great when one can't sleep and live on your own.

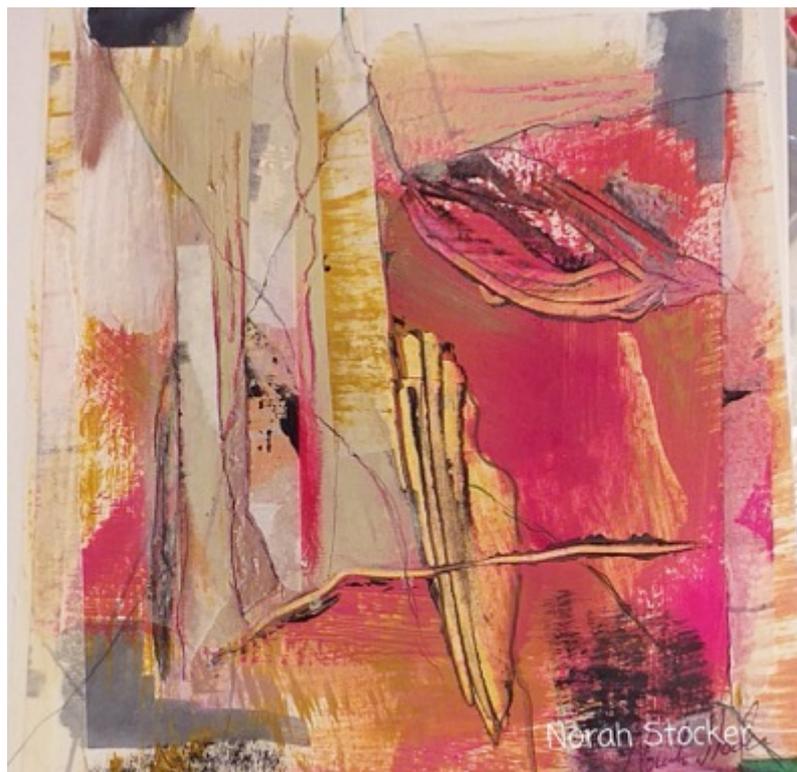
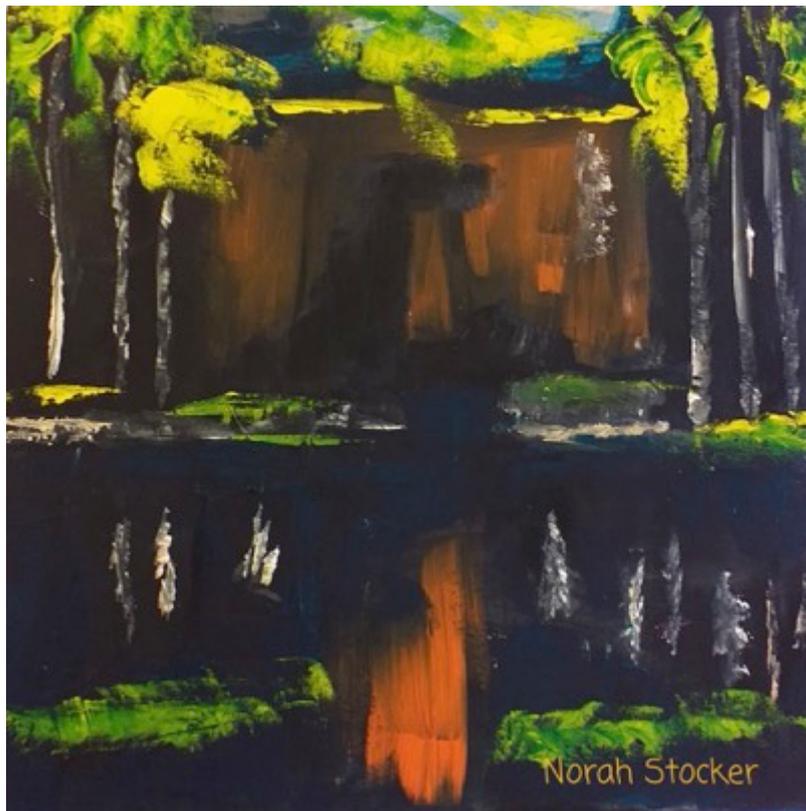
Karen Stamper concertina books online are great fun, fast and motivational. I have done several of her online courses, well worth doing. I am especially using them for plain air sketchbook work.

Writing - I have been writing children's book with artwork for my beautiful grandson Sebastian. I am now ready to self publish them. Any recommendations would be welcome.

So despite the fact that sadly, all my exhibitions, teachings and studio are in lockdown once again, I know we share this loss across the world. We are all together in this ghastly storm and somehow we will get through it, says she tongue in cheek! Stay safe keep creative and thank you Carole and committee for keeping this going.

Norah x

NORAH STOCKER – "FREEDOM OF SOUL"



LOCKDOWN CREATIONS BY KIRSTEN YEATES

Those of you who have visited Denmark will be probably aware of the fondness of Danes for their national flag - there are lots of flagpoles in gardens and no birthday party is complete without some flags on the table.

At the moment my creative embroidery is on hold while I am waiting to have cataract surgery (15th Sept) so instead I am enjoying crocheting chevron design blankets and lots of Danish flag potholders.

While chatting on Zoom, after a Danish church service in London, the subject of masks came up. A member showed us her Kaffe Fassett fabric masks and I jokingly held up a flag potholder as a face covering. We are both part of a group who normally make crafts for sale in aid of the church. Someone suggested that selling these online could help raise funds, now that the usual 'shop' is not able to be open. The masks and potholders have been selling from the "Danish Women in England" website.

We have both been very busy with over £500 raised in 3 weeks. I have made 14 so far, with 5 more on order. I have just started on an order for a Swiss flag pair - fairly simple maths involved in the design - looking forward to seeing the result.

I think we are going to need textile art and creativity to help getting through the coming autumn and winter and I look forward to seeing and being inspired by what you are all doing.

Best wishes to all in ERTF
Kirsten



LOCKDOWN CREATIONS BY JENNY LESLIE

Because of covid, I was disappointed to have a workshop cancelled in October, but it has propelled me into recording my covid walks in a rather creative way.

By collecting and printing leaves, I have been doing some simple book binding to make small books and cards for our granddaughters. It's been rather special.



LOCKDOWN CREATIONS BY JOAN BRASS

I was delighted to be shortlisted for the Vieseline Fine Art Textile Award and disappointed that the exhibition will not be travelling around the country.

The inspiration for the pieces was Pablo Picasso's Dora Maar and Diego Velazquez's Maria Anna (Las Meninas). I drew from both of these artists unusual figure shapes and provocative formations.

I really enjoyed making these sculptures and would like to add more to the collection.



LOCKDOWN PROGRESS BY SUE DUNKERLEY

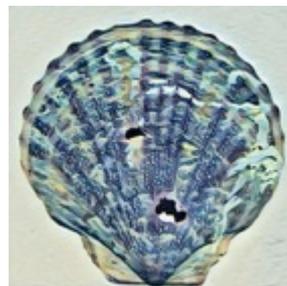
If I live to be 150 years old, I could not possibly make, use and complete all the projects I have collected over the years or been inspired by books to have a go at. So, when the last lockdown started, I duly wrote a list, which included such things as getting my embellishing machine out, trying to make jeans that fit me and completing some exhibition work. Apart from the last one, the list still contains numerous projects still waiting.

About a week into the last lockdown my pregnant daughter and four-year-old granddaughter arrived to stay for five months. My daughter was running a virtual clinic for her hospital every morning and I was back to the Early Years Foundation Curriculum, knowledge of which I hoped I had left behind when I retired. Spending all that time with my family was something that I will always be grateful for. I am also grateful to Carole who supplied a veritable array of plastic animals, toy vet vans, that were played with continually as our lounge turned into an episode of *The Lion King*!

For my Sense of Place piece, I decided to produce a piece of kinoptic art. I used the inspiration of near and far, home and away as I love our holidays but also enjoy being at home. I used a photo of Curaçao in the Caribbean, taken on holiday, and a shell picked up on the beach in this country. The first curly ammonite type shell I chose did not work for kinoptic art as you need the design to read across a larger area. I chose a flatter shell.



I drew the designs, 26 cm square, to stitch out and programmed these in to my Bernina software. These were stitched out on Khardi paper. Painting using White Nights watercolour paint was next. Choosing colours from my original photograph was easy. I needed the shell to be similar colours for the kinoptic art to work visually. I therefore used Corel Paintshop Pro on my computer and tried out some colourways. I finally chose blue and yellow shown in the try out below right. The design was then painted.



Each design has to be cut carefully in to strips. These are then stuck on to white card that has already been folded in to zig zags and the whole thing is stuck on to flat card. Now all I have to do is wait for a new exhibition date.

LOCKDOWN PROGRESS BY SUE DUNKERLEY



After my family went home, I was able to start my 'Take a View' Piece for consideration for the New Embroidery Group (NEG) exhibition next year. One really positive outcome of lockdown was going for local walks. I literally had my eyes opened to views that I had not experienced in the 20 years we have lived at our house. I decided to collage these views – before the BBC did the same!

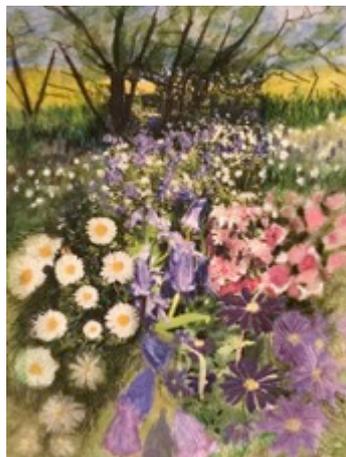


I went on a Brenda Boardman course years ago but the techniques she taught me of printing on to fabric, mounting this on to Lutradur and stitching on top is still one of my favourite techniques and ideal for a collage of views. Eventually I chose these 5 individual views that I had particularly liked, editing them until I was happy.

Together they form a view that is beautiful making you feel happy but at the same time there is also so much sadness and challenge from the ramifications of the virus. One is pulled emotionally both ways, which is unsettling. The design size is 38cm x 54cm.



Early days



Getting there



Now where's that list?!