



August 2015 Newsletter

Dear All,

We are nearly halfway through the summer, but [Buckingham's](#) Christmas workshops are coming up and I have been making samples of these tiny felted Christmas stockings to teach on 29th October. The stockings themselves are made in one piece (no stitching) the decoration could also be made as part of the fabric, although the spots are actually small half spheres of felt which I have stitched on. They could be filled with sweets or a small gift or even used as bunting as shown. Alternatively if you come, you could make felted jewellery or even a miniature felted Christmas pudding! Booking can be made through the link, or if a group of you are interested I am happy to run the same workshop in other locations so do get in touch.



As well as teaching "[Beachcombing](#)" at the inspirational Oxford Summer School, where we discovered that wood also dyes really nicely in indigo, and "[Books](#)" at the equally wonderful Mill Arts in Banbury, I have been preparing work for lots of other new classes that are coming up.

14th-15th November is [Oxford Summer School Plus](#) where I will be teaching a slightly different Indigo Dyeing class which will also include the use of Potassium and Lemon juice to print, and stencil the indigo fabrics to produce a range of browns and before discharging back to the original colour. I haven't done this for a long time now as the materials have not been readily available and the web link hasn't been updated yet, but if you enjoy indigo then this is a really good way of taking the technique further. If you want any further details let me know, or book through the link.



The next event that is planned is of course [Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycrafts](#) show at Westpoint, Exeter from September 24th-27th. I will be demonstrating free machine embroidery as well as bringing the samples from the Distance Learning course together with those for the "[Gardens](#)" residential week in Cornwall, including these new packets of seeds.

I have been asked to teach "[Seed Packets](#)" as a standalone workshop so if you would like to make your own little packet which could be used as a bag for a mobile phone or notebook then follow the link for more information.

Other venues that are coming up next year will be at the [National Needlework Archive](#) in Newbury which will hopefully be starting in February. I will be teaching machine embroidery, image transfer and a series of workshops on making and filling a sketchbook. I will be at [Ardington School of Crafts](#) in May and June showing how you can use soldering irons and heat guns to produce a range of samples using manmade fabrics. The booking arrangements are still being set up but do get in touch with me if you are interested and I will pass your information on when the courses are opened.

As usual there are a couple of new Distance Learning Units to show, Unit Four from [Susan Cobley](#), and Unit One from [Vivienne Shanahan](#) great work from both of them.

I have managed to squeeze in a couple of exhibitions, [Joseph Cornell, Wanderlust](#) at the Royal Academy in London is probably the most inspiring exhibition I have been to in the last few years.

Much of his work relates in some way to travel or astronomy from which the exhibition draws its title, however Cornell rarely left York City where he worked as a textile salesman supporting his mother and disabled brother.

Totally untrained as an artist, the work is a combination of collage, using papers from books and travel guides, and sculpture of objects rescued from skips and purchased from junk shops and dime stores. These treasures, were assembled with delicacy and precision into "Shadow Boxes", unique cabinets of curios which capture a world of imagination only inhabited by Cornell but into which any viewer will long to step. The image here is "Habitat Group for a Shooting Gallery" 1943.



This exhibition is on until 27th September so there is plenty of time still to visit and for anyone in the Norwich area, the Sainsbury Centre has a discussion relating to the show, '[Joseph Cornell and the Surrealist Box - Krzysztof Fijalkowski and Robert Short in Conversation](#)' on 15th September. I just wish I lived nearer and would be able to get there, do drop me a note if you are able to go.

Another of my favourite exhibitions on at the moment is '[Frames in Focus](#)' Sansovino [Frames](#) at the National Gallery. A small, free exhibition of frames, named after architect and sculptor Jacopo Sansovino who worked in Venice in the early 16th century. His name became synonymous with the elaborate baroque style of frame made up until the late 19th century which included elaborate garlands of fruit and flowers, scrolls and cherubs.



The 'framing' of a piece of work, whether in a two dimensional frame, behind glass, in a vitrine or merely placed on a plinth is integral to the way in which we interpret any piece of art and the sheer opulence of these frames certainly would have given any painting and also the sitter a greatly enhanced sense of importance.

The fact that the majority of the frames on show here, do not contain paintings reinforces their right to be seen as works of art in their own right, and not merely vessels made to aggrandise the work of others. This exhibition continues until 13th September and is to be the first in a series of exhibitions looking at various types of frames held at the National Gallery, am looking forward to the next one.

That must be about all for this newsletter, but don't forget to pop by if you are at Exeter, would be lovely to catch up.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.