



Anne Griffiths – Contemporary Textile Art – February Newsletter

Dear all,

I seem to have visited a lot of photography exhibitions recently and there was none better than [Man Ray](#) at the National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition focuses on his career in America and Paris between 1916 and 1968 and includes photographs of the leading artists within the Dada and Surrealist movement including Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dali and celebrities, friends and lovers such as Lee Miller.



My favourite image from the exhibition is “Noire et Blanche” (1926), showing the head of Kiki de Montparnasse shimmering white beside a gleaming ebony African face mask. It is the perfect example of Man Ray’s supreme talent for composition and lighting.

Man Ray’s work was published in leading fashion magazines such as *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. It reminded me of how thirty years on William Klein also worked for *Vogue*, and of this image “Smoke and Veil” (1958).

I was very excited to find a new gallery in London last month called [Two Temple Place](#). It is an ornate and highly decorated space, originally built for William Astor in the late 19th century. It is now owned by the Bulldog Trust and hosts corporate and private events in addition to its role as a gallery. It is well worth a visit here just to see the architecture. Currently they are showing [Amongst Heros: the artist in working Cornwall](#). This exhibition shows the lives of working people of Cornwall in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



The coastal regions of Cornwall attracted artists in the 1880's seeking to develop their plein-air techniques. What better subject to paint than the working lives of fishermen, farmers and miners?

Charles Napier Hemy's sea painting "Pilchards" (1897) shown here was considered one of the finest of its time. By the 1920's the traditional ways of working were beginning to be lost due to modernisation. The naturalist mode of painting was going out of fashion too. The artists' communities of Newlyn and St. Ives were being replaced by modernist and abstract painters such as Christopher Wood and Ben Nicholson and the emergence of naive painting in particular through the discovery of Alfred Wallis in 1928.

This exhibition was the perfect inspiration for the "[Beach](#)" course held the course at the beautiful working farm [Bodrugan Barton](#), Mevagissy, Cornwall. We combed the beach for shells, seaweed and pebbles, we dyed and stitched both by hand and machine and laughed and ate too much. You can see our work here on the right and more in the [students' gallery](#) with the credits.

Many thanks should go to our hosts, Tim and Sally Kendall for looking after us so well. The food was unbelievably good.



I will be repeating "[Beach](#)" 25th October-1st November 2013 immediately after "[Gardens](#)" which runs the week before, 18th - 25th October 2013.

In March next year I will be teaching a new course based on "[Trees](#)". We will visit [The Lost Gardens of Heligan](#) for inspiration. We will stitch by hand and machine

and will look at creating small books. There are design exercises for those who want them as well as free time for visiting St. Ives. There is a pool and sauna at the farm and of course fantastic food.

Should there be empty spaces on any of the courses, I will be offering them to non-residential students, as I know some people have friends and relatives in the area that they could stay with. Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in booking a place or the non-residential option, I have quite a few bookings already.



My last outing this month was to the Southwater Spinners and Weavers to give the talk [Stories in Stitch](#). There were some amazing combinations of fibres being spun, here including tiny strands of angelina mixed with mohair, a totally different way of using the fibre to that I have used before.

I have always wanted to try weaving and the pieces that were being worked on certainly inspired me, if only there were more hours in the day! Visit the [Spinners and Weavers Guild](#) website for more information on workshops, conferences and branches local to you.

Finally, I have my first [Distance Learning](#) parcel, has just arrived! The brief for the Unit One is design and stitch using black and white and neutral colours. All the work is lovely and I have spent a very happy morning looking and uploading images to the [Gallery](#) you can see some below. Many thanks to Chris De Clercq for making some beautiful samples and letting me share them with you.

Well that is it for this month, have a happy Easter.

Best,

Anne

