

BIOGRAPHY FOR MARGARET VANT ERVE

PAINTED AND EMBROIDERED IMAGES

Growing up on a farm in the Ottawa Valley, I was immersed in country life. Those early days, nourished in me a strong attachment to Canada's rural and natural landscape. Many of the subjects that find their way into my work are the rural things that I grew up with. I find inspiration in the still quiet places, the ordinary objects and details that surround my life. My landscapes embody a space in time; an atmosphere that conveys the beauty and uniqueness of this country, particularly the Southeastern Ontario area, where I reside. I want to capture the simplicity of landscape in a way that combines a strong composition that can be viewed from a distance yet on closer inspection permits a playful exploration of the endless details contained within each piece.

I studied textile arts at Sheridan College, the Ontario College of Art and through a small private embroidery school. I combine my painting skills with my mastery of stitching. I chose this medium because I love the rich history, the technical challenges, and the wonderful three-dimensional quality that embroidery offers.

My textile repertory also includes botanical studies in silk hand embroidery along with painted and machine embroidered quilts. Each technique is a lovely, complex medium to work in and has its own unique characteristics.

In this impatient world of ours, it is a gift to work with techniques that are labour-intensive and to create images that reflect a beautiful world where there are still good things to be discovered.

TECHNIQUES

My work is labour intensive so before I begin a piece, I first need to be captivated by the subject I am considering. I take many photographs and then file them away in subject folders, drawing them out as I feel compelled to use them. Some works are inspired by specific places and the end result closely resembles that place, other works are more of a montage, bringing together ideas and images to convey a feeling. When I lay out my photographs, I first determine what atmosphere is desired and then I develop a simple line drawing on paper. Once this is complete, I discern how I will translate the image into paint and embroidery. I always begin with painting on stretched silk or cotton. I use Pebeo silk paints, which have fluid translucency and are wonderful for skies and water, followed by Pebeo transparent and opaque textile paints which are more viscous and used on fields or for more opaque background areas. Pencil crayons are also used to add detail and texture. Once the painting is complete, I transfer the outline of all my focal points onto the painted fabric and I begin the embroidery. Free motion machine embroidery is used for its coarser texture, specifically for foliage in trees and shrubs and sometimes grasses. Primarily I use hand embroidery, working with single or double strands of cotton flosses or fine silk threads. I usually have several needles working at the same time to achieve the desired subtle color blending.

I am often asked how long each piece takes. This is a hard question to answer because there is always so much work beforehand in thinking through or discovering the image and then working through all the technical challenges, and again after completion in determining the appropriate framing and bringing it to you, the viewer. It can take from two to six weeks to complete a piece, depending on the amount of hand embroidery involved.

CURRICULUM VITAE FOR MARGARET VANT ERVE

447 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ont., K1S 1N6

Phone: 613-230-7850

E-mail: Margaret@vanterve.ca

www.vanterve.ca

EDUCATION

- 1998 - 2001 Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Teacher Certification Program
- 1983 - 85 Ontario College of Art - Design Dept., Specializing in textiles
- 1983 - 85 One Stitch at a Time, Toronto, Extensive Embroidery studies with Ann Adams
- 1979 - 81 Sheridan College - School of Crafts and Design

EXHIBITS

- 2010 Friends of the Experimental Farm - Juried exhibit, Ottawa
- 2009 Friends of the Experimental Farm - Juried exhibit, Ottawa
- 2008 Inner Light - two person show at Old Town Hall, Ottawa
- 2007 - 09 Threadworks - traveling show throughout Ontario museums and galleries, juried group
- 2006 It's Not a Deli Art Gallery, Toronto, Ont., juried group
- 2006 The Quiet Landscape, fibreEssence Gallery, Vancouver, B.C., Solo Exhibit
- 2005 The Mayors Art Exhibit, Ottawa, Juried group
- 2004 The Embroidered Countryside, Centrepointe Theatre Gallery, Ottawa, Solo Exhibit
- 2004 Artemisia - Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, juried group
- 2003 - 04 Ottawa Art Festival, juried group
- 2003 Central Ottawa Artist Tour, group
- 2002 Weaving New Rhythms, Oakville, Ontario, juried group
- 2002 Through the Eye of a Needle, Mississippi Textile Museum, Almonte, Ont., Solo
- 2002 Fabrications, Orleans Visual Art Centre, Ottawa, group of 4
- 2000 - 01 One of a Kind Exhibits, Toronto, Ont.

AWARDS

- 2007 Threadworks - best use of Stitchery to express the theme 'Passion'
- 2000 Ontario Crafts Council, Helen Francis Gregor Award
- 2000 Ontario Crafts Council, Mary Diamond Butts Award
- 2000 New Artisian Scholarship - One-of-a-Kind Exhibits
- 1999 Ontario Crafts Council, Mary Robertson Award
- 1996 & 1999 Ottawa Guild of Stitchery study grant
- 1995 Canadian Leadership Award

PUBLICATIONS

- 2007 *Points of View*, Valerie Header, Martingale Pub.
2006 *Stitch Magazine*, Great Britain
2006 *Workbox Magazine*, Great Britain
2005 *Window Gardens in Bloom - 25 Hand Embroidered Flowers in Easy to Create Settings*, Margaret Vant Erve, C&T Publications, California (63 page book)
2003 *Weaving New Rhythms Diary*, Rubicon Press, Canada
1998- 2005 *Embroidery Canada*, regular contributor

TELEVISION

- 2001 *Regional Contact*, Profile on my work, CJOH TV
2001 *Craftscapes*, Profile on my work, AOL TV

SELECT TEACHINGS

- 2011 Sudbury, Ont.
 Olds, Alberta, fibre potporri
2010 Regina, Sask. EAC National Seminar
 Canadore College Artsperience, North Bay
2008 Sault St. Marie Embroiderers' Guild
 Montreal Lakeshore Embroiderers' Guild
 Kelowna, B.C., EAC National Seminar
 Regina Stitchery Guild
 Algonquin College summer arts program
2007 Orillia Guild of Stitchery, Ont
 St. John's, Nfld, EAC National Seminar
 Hartford, Connecticut, River Valley Guild
2006 Richmond, Virginia, EGA National Seminar
 Canadian Quilt Conference, Ottawa, Ont
 Ottawa Quilters Guild
 Peterborough Guild of Stitchery, Ontario
2005 Les Brodeuses Economusee, Montreal, Quebec
 Toronto, Ont., EAC National Seminar
 Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa
 Belleville Embroiderers Guild , Ontario
 Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery, Ont.
 Inspirations Needlecraft Show, Ottawa, Ont., 2003 - 05
2004 Toronto Guild of Stitchery, Ontario
 Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London, Ontario
 Victoria, B.C., EAC National Seminar
 Vancouver, B.C. North Shore Needlearts Guild
 Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, Manitoba
 Lakeshore Creative Stitchery Guild, Montreal, Quebec
 Wellington Museum Summer Arts Program, Ontario

2004 Guelph Embroiderers Guild, Ont.
Algonquin College Arts Credit Program Instructor
Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London, Ontario
Victoria, B.C., EAC National Seminar
Vancouver, B.C. North Shore Needlearts Guild
Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, Manitoba
Lakeshore Creative Stitchery Guild, Montreal, Quebec
Wellington Museum Summer Arts Program, Ontario
Guelph Embroiderers Guild, Ont.
Algonquin College Arts Credit Program Instructor

2003 Algonquin College Arts Program, Ottawa, Ont.

2002 Algonquin College Arts Program, Ottawa, Ont.
Regina, Saskatchewan, EAC National Seminar

2001 Calgary, Alberta, EAC National Seminar
Canador College, Artsperience, North Bay, Ont.