



## The Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc.

### Margaret Oppen Competition 2019 – Artist Statements – Contemporary

#### **C1 SUZANNE RUSSELL - SACRED EARTH**

Inspiration for “Sacred Earth” came from a chance viewing of a series of drone photographs taken near Uluru. I was taken by the direct - overhead view that emphasised the flatness of the land contrasted with the colour and texture of the natural landscape plus recent invasion through tracks. These photos evoked the senses in many ways:

- the landscape that is uniquely Australian- feel the heat, taste the dust, smell the eucalypts, see the vastness
- the contrasting colours of the trees, flowers, salt pans and the ochre of our earth
- a sense of pride and belonging to this unique land
- an appreciation for our indigenous cultural and natural heritage

Our Sacred Earth – Sensational!

#### **C2 CATHERINE DELANEY - THE STORYTELLER**

I was considering the concept of Country, place of belonging, who you are, what it meant to a non-indigenous person. A pile of recently dyed fabrics and a scrap of white silk were waiting to come together. Colonial settlers called this place YARRAMUNDI, mistakenly thinking it was the man's name, not his title. The Story-Tellers, History Keepers, who have the extraordinary intellectual capacity to commit millenia of tribal knowledge to memory and pass it on, *instil a sensation of awe*. Tranquility pervades the scene. What tales does the White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) keep of the struggles to survive?

#### **C5 KATHY HAWKINS - A WALK IN THE SILKEN FOREST**

It's about the softness, the fly-away lightness of silk I have loved since a child. It's about being present, with fabric in hand, meandering the needle through, creating loops, knots, paths in the fabric. And it's like walking through a eucalypt forest – over scattered leaves and crunching twigs and knotty seed pods, the shapes contrasting in the dappled light filtering through the trees... the rugged textures and golden colours of Australia telling their story.

#### **C6 DONNA CAFFREY - RELEASE**

Release is an escape from confinement. In this piece I freed myself from traditional aesthetics and techniques and played. The composition is intuitive. I used running stitch to give a texture akin to kantha work. It adds depth and motion through the play of shadow. Padded areas give the illusion of form lifting from the surface. Blocks of colour rise from behind the work. The zip is open. A spark of colour runs through the work. I chose to mount the work on paper only: it is unconstrained. All this plays into the sensation of release, freedom and movement.

#### **C7 JENNIFER CORKISH - RIPPLES OF RENEWAL**

The ocean in its many natural forms, from gentle lapping ripples to crashing waves draws me to it for play, relaxation, or to just appreciate its constantly changing beauty. Using a variety of techniques, smocking, indigo dyeing, assorted hand embroidery stitches and threads has allowed me to create "Ripples of Renewal" with the feeling of movement. Locally collected shells show the wear and tear of the ocean currents over the years allowing their beauty to show. I remind myself that I am only a guest and we need to look after the oceans, a source and symbol of renewal.

#### **C8 JO STEELE - ONE GIANT LEAP**

On the 20 July 1969, over 600 million people around the world watched the moon landing on their small television screens. There were tears and cheers as the eagle touched down and awe as Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the celestial body so far away. In Mission Control the fear and trepidation, the storm of adrenaline, dissolved into relief and jubilation. I re-lived all these sensations during the 50th anniversary of the landing via podcast, television and film. It was thrilling and awe inspiring, a sensational event inspiring multiple sensations. And it inspires to this day.

#### **C9 LOUISE YEOMANS - TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE SENSATIONS**



## The Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc.

Touch is an important but often ignored sense. Our first experience of the environment occurs through touch in-utero at around 16 weeks and through touch we constantly learn about our changing environment and associate emotional responses to different touches.

### **C10 LINDY SMITH - GARDEN 1**

The title of my entry is *Garden 1*, which embodies my love of flowers and nature in general. The many corners of my garden, which change throughout the seasons, provide me with constant inspiration. I hope that my depiction of one such corner, evokes in the viewer the same or similar sensations to that which I experienced while making it.

### **C11 LYNETTE HORN - TRANQUILITY**

This embroidery is highly textured focussing on the different facets of touch – the basis of tangible knowledge of our surroundings and those intangible, associated sensations. By using white-on-white, contrasting textures explore our sensations of touch without the distraction of colour. These textures are created through the use of different stitches and materials to further deepen the tactile experiences.

### **C12 ROBYN JOHNSTONE - COUNTRY**

My SENSATIONS journey started when stepping out of a car barefoot into the warm dry rust coloured soil of my mother's country and finished with the cool soft blue/greens of my father's, also many times barefoot. There were many sensations both physical and emotional created whilst coffee dyeing my Grandmother's cotton sheeting, collecting, drying and peeling apart the tea bags after many cups of tea with my Mother and then the feeling when the needle was passing through all those beautiful textured layers with my favourite split stitch.

### **C13 SHEILA BEER - RING-A-RING**

Dizziness, a sensation enjoyed by children either spinning alone or in a group. Then there is the dizziness of young love, of first love. The dizziness at the speed of day-to-day life, dealing with family, work and friends in middle age. Finally, there is the dizziness of decline into old age. This dizzyingly cycle has been spinning in the past and will continue to spin in the future.

### **C14 SUGANTHI SINGARAYAR - HIDDEN DEPTHS**

Something that you can touch, feel, see, smell, that creates a feeling (a sensation). Something that is wonderful....A swirling sensation. Layers. Depth. Sea creatures. Colour. Swirls. Creating sensations of beauty and touch. Moving your senses from the intensity of shades of blue threads - seahorses (laid bars), sea urchins (raised stem), on a blue silk background. From the depths of the ocean, to the open freeing work of blanket stitch and withdrawn thread work on orange linen to the swirls of red and orange felted wool, to the starbursts of moonlight on the ocean depths. Creating a sensation.

### **C15 VALERIE LAURIE - A TOUCH OF BLUE**

Sensation.....Contemplation. Consideration. Deliberation. Concentration. Relaxation. Completion.....Satisfaction.

### **C16 WENDY SCHMID - SENSATIONS IN SILK**

SENSATIONS of touch when I handle silk fabrics and threads. SENSATIONS of delight when I stitch with silk on silk. SENSATIONS of freedom as my needle plays with directions and shapes. SENSATIONS of freedom and joy as my mind slides into another place. Sensations of apprehension as I ponder, "Is it finished?"

### **C17 CATHIE GRIFFITH - STOP AND SMELL THE FLOWERS**

As life rushes by, I like to stop for a moment and smell the flowers, taking a few moments to enjoy the people and things around me. Flowers, their colours, shapes and scents, remind me of all the beauty that surrounds me. The recycled fabrics and found objects I have used in this piece, bring to mind all the people and places they came from.

### **C19 CATHERINE LEES - FLOATING, SINKING**

Floating, Sinking considers the physical and emotional sensations of 'floating' and 'sinking'. The work presents elements of abstraction, colour, embroidered surface effects and rhythm by combining delicate silk textile with thread and metal to create unique wearable forms that suggest the varied ways that we experience these sensations



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in our everyday lives. The work also explores the immediacy and tactile quality of stitch that is juxtaposed with non-traditional materials to express the contradiction between textile delicacy and strength.

### **C20 PENNY WRIGHT - TEA AND CONVERSATION**

The sensations that a pot of tea brings. Peace after a hectic day, a pick me up when feeling frazzled, hope when solving the world's problems with friends. Refreshment and quietude, a centering. This doublesided cloth reflects conversation threads and the clarity that brings. Achieved with my favourite tea pot and setting, an unfinished supper cloth, string, wool waste, slow breaths and a cup of tea.

### **C21 MARGARET BIASIO - SENSE OF PLACE – INDIAN DREAMING**

Having needle and thread in my hands allows me a sense of calm, relaxation and pleasure. I have been embroidering for as long as I can remember, before starting kindergarten. My dear mother provided the opportunity and encouragement to stitch and all things creative. A Sense of Place - Indian Dreaming- is my interpretation of the culture, colour and movement of India. I have used a range of stitches to create colour and texture. India is a country of symbolic colour and the representation of emotions. The reflective nature of the shisha mirrors and kantha stitch gives my work movement a