The Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc

Margaret Oppen Competition 2021

Theme ' My World'

Tutors and Past Winners

My World of Embroidery
Heather Grant

My World of Embroidery collage commenced with a move overseas. Travel ignited my interest and exposed me to world embroidery. Returning to Australia, my passion for embroidery grew, stimulated by engagement with the Guild and its activities. My collage includes lace from my mother and grandmother, complemented by handmade lace doilies collected from across Europe. These pieces are embellished with my own lace and stitching creations. Beads, buttons, pearls and diverse threads and stitches add to the collage reflecting my busy life. My World of Embroidery collage embodies my heritage, life experiences and joy of embroidery.

Price: NFS

Positive Over Negative
Margaret Gollan

'My World' reflects the good life I live. Brightness overshadows the not-so-good parts. These not-so-good parts are represented by the background of overdevelopment, crowding and a busy world as well as the impacts of climate change on the natural environment. All stitched in dark colours. So many positive aspects in 'My World'. The frame is recycled (something positive I can do for the environment), the fabric and some threads were bought on overseas travels (a pleasure I miss). The flowers are my garden and good vibes.

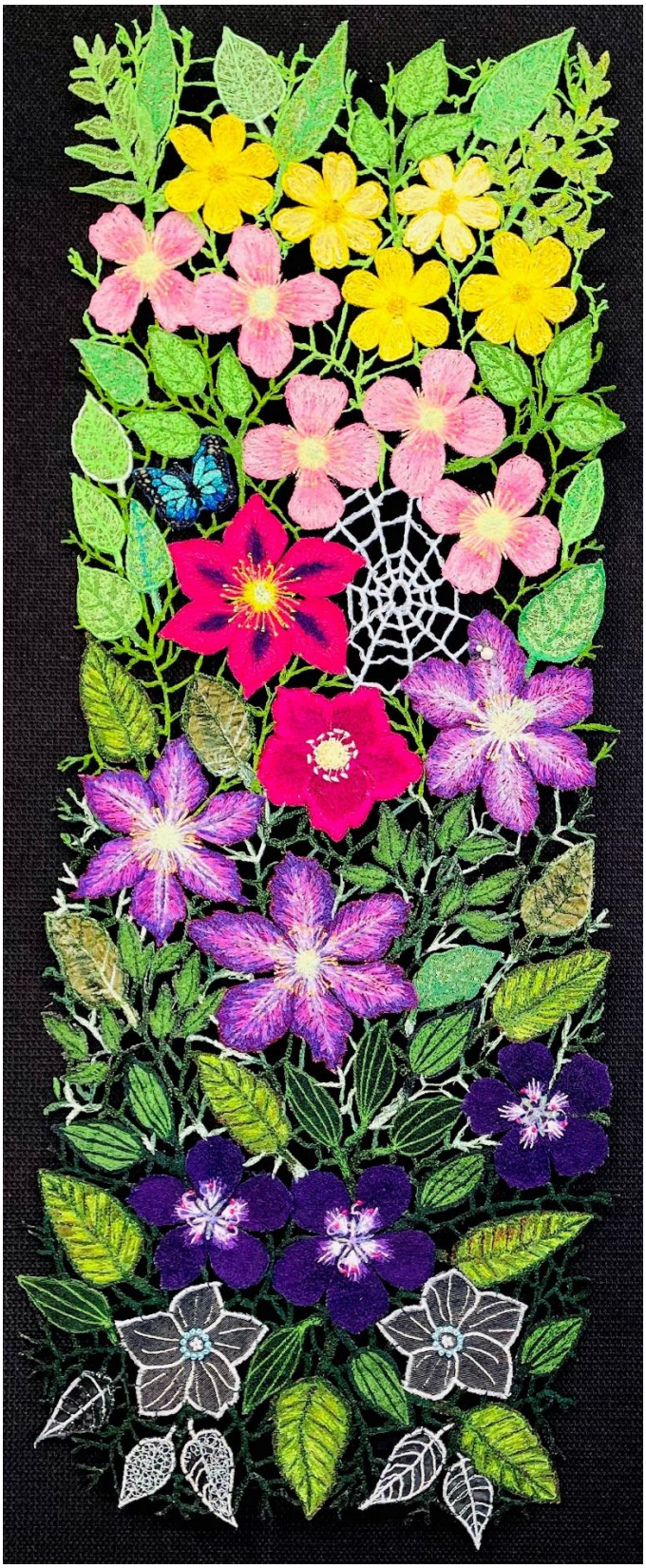
Price: $350

Welcome to my Hydrangea Garden
Lyall Willis

My Hydrangea Garden was inspired by the hydrangea flowers and the technique of 'shadow mounting'. The Fence and Gate are free-machine embroidered mixing top thread by drawing up bobbin thread. Each element is hand sewn together with beads used as nails and an ivy vine has each leaf attached to bramble. Shadow mounting suspends all the elements. Fabric: stones, leaves and flowers - manipulated double bonded cotton fabric hand embellished, wool felt. Stitches used: Couching, blanket stitch, detached buttonhole, satin, turkey stitch, colonial and french knots. Threads used: machine, gimp, flower thread, stranded cotton and metallic threads.

Price: NFS

My Garden / My World
Lindy R. Smith



My garden is a metaphor for my inner and outer world. There is an anthropomorphic relationship with my plants. When one dies, after much tending and caring, I feel as though I've lost a friend. In contrast, when a new plant blooms, I feel joy and exhilaration in the same way as when I meet with a friend. There are dark, shady areas and areas full of light, echoing phases of relationships and events that are happening in the wider world. When things aren't going well, there's nothing like a spot of weeding and pruning in the garden to help balance my equilibrium and even help solve problems. Ultimately my garden brings me much joy and inspiration. My garden …my world. My approach to this piece was influenced by the work of Sue Rangeley.

Price: NFS

My Moments in Time
Elaine Dwyer

This work is a whimsical interpretation of memories that I have treasured. The memories I have put into this work come from my mother's used button jar. She couldn't sew, hence the jar just kept growing. There was my grandfather's shed, the three small children represent me and my sisters in their garden and where we always had time to smell the roses. There was the garden bench where my grandparents often sat; my paternal grandfather was instrumental in encouraging us in the love of books, hence my project is a book cover. I have covered my work in embroidered flowers - all my family were passionate gardeners. The other items represent the things I enjoyed doing; I loved to draw and dabbled in calligraphy, I loved to do my fancy work, learning to sew at school and then discovering the embroidery guild where I could let my imagination flow. Materials: shed embroidered on Aida cloth, then back covered in cotton fabric. Small children & clothing cut from wool felt & covered in jersey fabric before embroidery. Threads: mostly DMC thread, also some variegated & silk thread. Stitches included pavilion stitch (without crossbar), Roumanian couching, Cretan, chain, bullion, stem, brick and basket weave stitches.

Price: NFS

A Bowl of Lavender
Wendy Fuller

When strolling through my lavender patch, I am in MY WORLD. Following the 2020 drought breaking rains, my lavender plants responded by producing in glorious abundance, making me forget the meagre,straggly pickings of the previous harvest. As I ambled slowly through the blossom laden bushes I was in the company of happy bees and butterflies also enjoying nature's bounty. I felt overwhelming thankfulness and joy. This freestanding bowl, filled with a generous bunch of "lavender flowers", expresses that emotion.

Price: NFS