

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Whilst most of our shops have settled in to the daily routine of The Stitchers' Village, we would like to welcome The Needleworks, specialising in fine handpainted needlepoint canvases and fibers. The Needleworks has set up shop in No. 4 and invites everyone to come and visit some time soon.

There are also new designers exhibiting in The Gallery, with Cheryl Granda of Glendon Place having just hung ten of her beautiful designs in her new gallery room.

We have a general gallery room where Loopy Lou Designs, My Big Toe, Giulia Puntì Antichi, Rosewood Manor and X's and Oh's have several of their designs on display.

We also have dedicated gallery rooms for Moonflower Designs, Sampler Cove, MTV Designs, Glendon Place, Dinky Dyes Designs and The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio.

These dedicated gallery rooms allow designers to display up to ten of their current designs, all of which are available for purchase at The Village Shoppes.

If you haven't visited The Gallery before,

why not gather some friends together and make an afternoon of it, you're bound to discover a design or two that tickles your fancy!



*'Sirin Jaidee'
by Sampler Cove
One of the great
designs hanging
in our Gallery*

STITCHING ON BLACK FABRIC

by Jen Funk Weber

Funk & Weber Designs has a number of designs stitched on black fabrics and dark blue fabrics: 'The Neighborhood', the black-and-white 'Let There Be Night', 'Stitchlings', 'Twilight Treasures', and 'The Trail Home'. What can I say? I love the way bright colors leap off a dark background.

However, some people find it difficult to stitch on a dark background. Here are some things I do to make stitching on dark fabrics easier:

HAVE GOOD LIGHT

While caretaking, I had nothing but propane lights. I rearranged furniture so I could sit directly under one. One year, I taped white butcher paper on the wall behind my seat to help reflect the light. The wall beneath was dark brown, and it absorbed what little light there was. (Butcher paper on the wall--that'll make you think twice before putting faith in my decorating tips, eh?)

LIGHT ABOVE, LIGHT BELOW

In addition to good light above your work, light below the work illuminates the holes where your needle goes. Now, you don't want the lower light shining up in your eyes, but any indirect light is good. Daylight from a window does the trick. But that doesn't work so well at night, which I would guess is when most of us stitch. I have a black desk lamp that I set on the floor.

WHITE BACKGROUND

A white or light-colored background behind the dark fabric also illuminates the holes between fabric threads. This could be a pair of light pants, a piece of paper, or an afghan on your lap.

USE A MAGNIFIER

If the above tricks don't allow you to stitch joyfully on dark fabrics, consider

cont'd over page

STITCHING ON BLACK FABRIC

by Jen Funk Weber
(cont'd)

investing in a magnifier, if you can. Those things are amazing! I don't own one yet, but I will one day.

CHOOSE DIFFERENT FABRIC

If black fabric is impossible in your eyes (pun intended), consider changing fabrics. I saw a gorgeous 'Silent Night' stitched on 10-ct blue Heatherfield (Wichelt). Still dark, but large, and thus easier to see.

And someone even stitched that pattern on a white opalescent fabric with brown overdyed floss. Bizarre! But very cool. The opalescent fabric gave a snowy feeling even though the stitches were brown. Another needleworker stitches our black-and-white patterns in reverse: she uses black fiber on white fabric and stitches the empty squares rather than the squares with symbols. (Think Assisi embroidery.) They're gorgeous!

Good luck! Be creative. Have fun.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL - FINAL UPDATE

Through the generosity of stitchers all over the world, Bushfire Kitty raised a total of AUD569 in just over two months, for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. The Red Cross has now closed this specific appeal, but is still accepting general donations for their ongoing work in Australia.

Ros Cumming and Janie Hubble would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who purchased the Bushfire Kitty pattern. You have warmed the cockles of our hearts.

Bushfire Kitty has now retired from active duty. He might appear one day in a group chart of Cat's Whiskers Crazy Kitties, but at this stage he is just looking forward to a good long rest, and a nice cup of tea.



APRIL COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to
Cheryll A. Marchalk
who correctly answered that there
were 21 Easter eggs hidden in the village.
**Cheryll wins a set of
The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio's
current 2009 new releases,
plus the two previous
Lounge Chair series designs,
and the thread and ribbon packs for
those designs that use
Dinky Dye Threads.
This prize is valued at well over \$300!**
Well done Cheryll and thank you to
everyone who entered.

MAY COMPETITION

Here's a competition to get your brain working!

Jo has created a word grid on the next page.

Follow the instructions at the top of the page to find the mystery sentence.

Email the answer to Janie by Friday May 29, 2009 at editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com for a chance to **win a complete set of Dinky-Dyes silks worth over \$600!**



*Pretty Pumpkins by Glendon Place
another lovely design to be found hanging in the Gallery*

If you are interested in purchasing
advertising space in
The Village Voice newsletter
please email us on
advertTSV@stitchersvillage.com

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go across, up, down and in three diagonals.

I L P E O V E S T I E T C H I N G N B T
 F L M L V N E E D L E H A R D A N G E R
 R R A D V O R Y R S D W T R C B V L S S
 A T L D P T C E F Y A H D I R N F R Q N
 M C G S T Z P R M L C V R C F V E O G G
 I G N K N L F S E Y O B N B V K Z E B I
 N R I D K G G R N L A S C A S F R Q X S
 G E H L B R I O D F P W S I C O G H V E
 T N C N I V H S K R H M H B T P S R G D
 G D T Q S C B S E X A W A S O F K L L R
 A O I C C J D I L D S W E S K X L F X E
 B N T D O V W C Y T V T N B R X I T R W
 E P S E R M M S A R I T I T G W S L N O
 T L N S N B L C Q R A R M T H R R C X L
 O A P I U T E N U T F R R K C R X Y M F
 T C L G L H C O H N W A B W N H E D L N
 C E P N T N V R Q R H Y J I J M I A R O
 M P G E V A Y V K C L D L J L H K N D O
 F Z Z R F J N E E D L E W O R K P B G M
 R I B B O N Q H T Z L S A M P L E R S K

biscornu	franing	ribbon
canvas	grendonplace	samplercove
chart	hardanger	samplers
designer	library	scissors
drawnthread	moonflowerdesigns	silks
fabric	mtvdesigns	stitching
favouritestore	needle	stitchinglamp
flossbox	needlework	thecatswhiskers
öbs	perle	totebag