



Embroiderers' Guild

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February 2004

art of the STITCH and SAMPLE

Don't miss your final chance to see this highly acclaimed exhibition

Following a very successful showing in the Netherlands, **art of the STITCH and SAMPLE** returns to the UK in March for its final showing at **Hall Place**, an exquisite Tudor mansion with beautiful gardens situated in Bexley, Kent, from 13 March to 30 May 2004.



De/others Emer O'Brien
Photograph by Stephen Brayne



Hall Place, Bexley, Kent



Consequences of Proximities Michael Brennan-Wood
Photograph by James Austin

art of the STITCH, presented by the **Embroiderers' Guild** in association with **Coats Crafts UK**, is an open international biennial exhibition selected by a panel of artists and museum curators. Not only does the exhibition showcase contemporary embroidery as an expressive medium, it also gives an insight into its diversity of production and perception today through the work of artists who use or reference this medium.

SAMPLE accompanies this year's **art of the STITCH**, providing a historical or wider contemporary context for the work on show. Eleven contemporary artists were challenged to question and extend their existing practice, by producing provocative new work for an exhibition that confronts perceptions of contemporary art and embroidery, each developing their work through the theme of stitch, regardless of the methods of their current practice.

"This is not embroidery as my Grandma knew it: it is a revelation in what can be done with a needle and thread but more than that, it is a visual treat!"

Colin Simpson, Williamson Art Gallery, Birkenhead

"This is the one of the most invigorating contemporary art exhibitions of the year. If this show changes a few received views of what embroidery is and can be, then the exhibitors are helping the Guild do its job."

Michael Spender, Director, Embroiderers' Guild

**At times there will be limited access to some of the galleries containing exhibits.
Please contact Hall Place 01322 526574 for further details.**

A fully illustrated colour catalogue for **art of the STITCH and SAMPLE** is available from the Embroiderers' Guild and at Hall Place priced at £7.95.



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Notes for Editors

- For this fifth art of the STITCH there were 647 submissions made by 430 artists from around the world, with 38 works selected for exhibition. From the 33 artists exhibiting, four were selected to receive awards for art of the STITCH, presented by Coats Crafts UK.
- For half of the artists involved in SAMPLE, as established fine art practitioners working in formats ranging from performance and installation to abstract painting and digital technology, stitch introduces an entirely new palette of references and methods. Of the five artists in SAMPLE already working with stitch, each has introduced a new dimension to this relationship, rediscovering the history and social significance of embroidery as a subject as well as a method of production.
- An exquisite Tudor mansion, Hall Place is situated in beautiful gardens just within the M25, with very easy road access, and a very large free car park, and a large choice of attractions nearby, including Eltham Palace, the only English Art Deco house open to the public, attached to a Medieval Hall (open Wednesday to Friday and Sunday – plus Bank Holidays from April – tel. 020 8294 2548), and William Morris's arts and crafts Red House in Bexleyheath (recently acquired by the National Trust, open Wednesday to Sunday for pre-booked guided tours – booking line 01494 755 588).
- Hall Place itself has the finest topiary lawns in London, herb garden, Italianate garden, and inspirational herbaceous borders. The former walled garden contains garden displays and a sub-tropical house and plant centre. In the immediate vicinity there is a large and attractive pub/restaurant.

For images and further information, please contact the **Embroiderers' Guild** on 020 8943 1229 or lmayfield@embroiderersguild.com



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