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The Embroiderers' Guild celebrates its centenary in 2006

The Guild was set up in 1906 by 16 graduates of the Royal School of Art Needlework to "deal entirely with embroidery, and with the first object of keeping up a high standard of work and design". Initially only open to embroiderers who achieved a certain standard, the Embroiderers' Guild is now the UK's leading crafts association, catering for all levels of skill, from the beginner to the professional artist (or embroiderer), and for everyone interested in embroidery.

Today the Embroiderers' Guild is a leading educational charity and registered museum (including a unique single subject collection of over 11,000 embroidered objects), with a lively programme of exhibitions, events and workshops, City & Guilds courses, lectures and tours (UK & overseas), specialist library and bookshop, two successful magazines, Embroidery and Stitch, and a network of 25,000 adult and young Members and subscribers, and 328 Branches and Young Embroiderers Groups. It has enjoyed Royal Patronage since 1924, presently that of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, and had a number of homes until its move to Hampton Court Palace, where it has been based since 1979.

"Embroidery is one of the most popular crafts in the country, with some 4 million practitioners and followers, yet its national profile does not reflect its international prominence as a contemporary art form and historical decorative art. Equally the extraordinary network of Guild Branches and groups, which both keep skills alive and teach new generations through their annual programme of some 5,000 educational, social, exhibition and community events, is not as well known as it should be. The Guild has therefore chosen as the theme for its centenary year 'making visible'. We want to show the nation not only what fantastic work is being made, but also what an amazing association of people the Guild is." Michael Spender, Director

The Guild's centenary year will be full of events and exhibitions throughout the UK, at national, Branch and Regional level, open to all – Members and non-Members alike.

For further information on the Embroiderers' Guild including all events, products and services check out our website at www.embroiderersguild.com or call 020 8943 1229.



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