

## Painted and Embroidered Images

Growing up on a farm in the Ottawa Valley, I was immersed in country life. Those early days, nourished in me a strong attachment to Canada's rural and natural landscape. Many of the subjects that find their way into my work are the rural things that I grew up with. I find inspiration in the still quiet places, the ordinary objects and details that surround my life. My landscapes embody a space in time; an atmosphere that conveys the beauty and uniqueness of this country, particularly the Southeastern Ontario area, where I reside. I want to capture the simplicity of landscape in a way that combines a strong composition that can be viewed from a distance yet on closer inspection permits a playful exploration of the endless details contained within each piece.

I studied textile arts at Sheridan College, the Ontario College of Art and through a small private embroidery school. I combine my painting skills with my mastery of stitching. I chose this medium because I love the rich history, the technical challenges, and the wonderful three-dimensional quality that embroidery offers.

My textile repertory also includes botanical studies in silk hand embroidery along with painted and machine embroidered quilts. Each technique is a lovely, complex medium to work in and has its own unique characteristics.

In this impatient world of ours, it is a gift to work with techniques that are labour-intensive and to create images that reflect a beautiful world where there are still good things to be discovered.

## Techniques

My work is labour intensive so before I begin a piece, I first need to be captivated by the subject I am considering. I take many photographs and then file them away in subject folders, drawing them out as I feel compelled to use them. Some works are inspired by specific places and the end result closely resembles that place, other works are more of a montage, bringing together ideas and images to convey a feeling. When I lay out my photographs, I first determine what atmosphere is desired and then I develop a simple line drawing on paper. Once this is complete, I discern how I will translate the image into paint and embroidery. I always begin with painting on stretched silk or cotton. I use Pebeo silk paints, which have fluid translucency and are wonderful for skies and water, followed by Pebeo transparent and opaque textile paints which are more viscous and used on fields or for more opaque background areas. Pencil crayons are also used to add detail and texture. Once the painting is complete, I transfer the outline of all my focal points onto the painted fabric and I begin the embroidery. Free motion machine embroidery is used for its coarser texture, specifically for foliage in trees and shrubs and sometimes grasses. Primarily I use hand embroidery, working with single or double strands of cotton flosses or fine silk threads. I usually have several needles working at the same time to achieve the desired subtle color blending.

## CURRICULUM VITAE FOR MARGARET VANT ERVE

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### EDUCATION

1998 - 2001 Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Teacher Certification Program  
1983 - 85 Ontario College of Art - Design Dept., Specializing in textiles  
1983 - 85 One Stitch at a Time, Toronto, Extensive Embroidery studies with Ann Adams  
1979 - 81 Sheridan College - School of Crafts and Design

### EXHIBITS

2011 Friends of the Experimental Farm - Juried exhibit, Ottawa  
2010 Friends of the Experimental Farm - Juried exhibit, Ottawa  
2009 Friends of the Experimental Farm - Juried exhibit, Ottawa  
2008 Inner Light - two person show at Old Town Hall, Ottawa  
2007 - 09 Threadworks - traveling show throughout Ontario museums and galleries, juried group  
2006 It's Not a Deli Art Gallery, Toronto, Ont., juried group  
2006 The Quiet Landscape, fibreEssence Gallery, Vancouver, B.C., Solo Exhibit  
2005 The Mayors Art Exhibit, Ottawa, Juried group  
2004 The Embroidered Countryside, Centrepointe Theatre Gallery, Ottawa, Solo Exhibit  
2004 Artemisia - Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, juried group  
2003 - 04 Ottawa Art Festival, juried group  
2003 Central Ottawa Artist Tour, group  
2002 Weaving New Rhythms, Oakville, Ontario, juried group  
2002 Through the Eye of a Needle, Mississippi Textile Museum, Almonte, Ont., Solo  
2002 Fabrications, Orleans Visual Art Centre, Ottawa, group of 4  
2000 - 01 One of a Kind Exhibits, Toronto, Ont.

### AWARDS

2007 Threadworks - best use of Stitchery to express the theme 'Passion'  
2000 Ontario Crafts Council, Helen Francis Gregor Award  
2000 Ontario Crafts Council, Mary Diamond Butts Award  
2000 New Artisian Scholarship - One-of-a-Kind Exhibits  
1999 Ontario Crafts Council, Mary Robertson Award  
1996 & 99 Ottawa Guild of Stitchery study grant  
1995 Canadian Leadership Award

### COLLECTIONS

2011 City of Ottawa Art Purchase Program

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2007            *Points of View*, Valerie Header, Martingale Pub.  
2006            *Stitch Magazine*, Great Britain  
2006            *Workbox Magazine*, Great Britain  
2005            *Window Gardens in Bloom - 25 Hand Embroidered Flowers in Easy to Create Settings*,  
Margaret Vant Erve, C&T Publications, California (63 page book)  
2003            *Weaving New Rhythms Diary*, Rubicon Press, Canada  
1998- 2005    *Embroidery Canada*, regular contributor

## TELEVISION

- 2001            *Regional Contact*, Profile on my work, CJOH TV  
2001            *Craftscapes*, Profile on my work, AOL TV

## SELECT TEACHINGS

- 2011            Sudbury, Ont.  
Olds, Alberta, fibre potporri  
2010            Regina, Sask. EAC National Seminar  
Canadore College Artsperience, North Bay  
2008            Sault St. Marie Embroiderers' Guild  
Montreal Lakeshore Embroiderers' Guild  
Kelowna, B.C., EAC National Seminar  
Regina Stitchery Guild  
Algonquin College summer arts program  
2007            Orillia Guild of Stitchery, Ont  
St. John's, Nfld, EAC National Seminar  
Hartford, Connecticut, River Valley Guild  
2006            Richmond, Virginia, EGA National Seminar  
Canadian Quilt Conference, Ottawa, Ont  
Ottawa Quilters Guild  
Peterborough Guild of Stitchery, Ontario  
2005            Les Brodeuses Economusee, Montreal, Quebec  
Toronto, Ont., EAC National Seminar  
Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa  
Belleville Embroiderers Guild , Ontario  
Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery, Ont.  
Inspirations Needlecraft Show, Ottawa, Ont., 2003 - 05  
2004            Toronto Guild of Stitchery, Ontario  
Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London, Ontario  
Victoria, B.C., EAC National Seminar  
Vancouver, B.C. North Shore Needlearts Guild  
Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, Manitoba  
Lakeshore Creative Stitchery Guild, Montreal, Quebec  
Wellington Museum Summer Arts Program, Ontario  
Guelph Embroiderers Guild, Ont.  
Algonquin College Arts Credit Program Instructor  
2003            Algonquin College Arts Program, Ottawa, Ont.

2002 Algonquin College Arts Program, Ottawa, Ont.  
Regina, Saskatchewan, EAC National Seminar

2001 Calgary, Alberta, EAC National Seminar  
Canador College, Artsperience, North Bay, Ont.