



Dear Friends and supporters

Spring 2024



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter

Once again the year is filling up with exciting opportunities. Mary and I have been teaching a new workshop based on the 'Fabric Hug' which is a really lovely and emotive session, creating artwork from old photos and surrounding the photos with favourite fabrics. We have taught this to small groups, individuals and larger stitch groups – if your group would be interested in this workshop please get in touch.

The original 'fabric hug' developed from a photograph I took on a visit to the Khmer Rouge torture prison in Cambodia last year. The walls are lined with photographs of those who were tortured and killed, and this girl's photograph struck me as so beautiful that when I got home I wanted to bring her back to life with some colour so I surrounded her with gorgeous fabrics.



A group of artists from the Living from Art group have had our work hung on the walls of Ashlea Financial Services in Cheltenham for the past 3 months. The group are very supportive of local artists and combine this with fundraising for local charities. In February they held a coffee/cake morning in aid of Cheltenham Samaritans and Cheltenham Open Door which was a lovely opportunity for us to meet their customers and help support these causes.

### Natural Dyeing



I have started off some seedlings to grow this year's crop of natural dye plants. Here are the Weld and Dyers Camomile just coming through. Sadly my Woad seeds didn't germinate.



But I have a healthy Genista in the garden.

And some dried Dyers Camomile and Genista from last year yet to be used.



I've also been experimenting with mixed media/collage – following a workshop with the lovely [Helen Norman](#) at Cheltenham Art Club.



I have several exhibition opportunities coming up later in the year so please do visit if you are in the area (see list below).

My work is also available at Swift Art and Design in Winchcombe High Street. A lovely little shop packed full of great art and design, run by local artist Guy Warner. [www.swiftartanddesign.com](http://www.swiftartanddesign.com)

## Upcoming Events

- 17-24 May** – Exhibition at Snowhill Village Hall with Cotswold Art Club
- 13-17 June** – Exhibition at Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham with Cheltenham Open Studios
- 22 June** – Indigo dye/Shibori Stitch workshop at Brockhampton Quilters
- 29 June – 2 July** Exhibition at Chipping Campden Village Hall with Cotswold Art Club
- 3-9 July** – Exhibition at Lower Slaughter Village Hall
- 14-20 Aug** – Exhibition at Lower Slaughter Village Hall
- 26-27 Oct** – [The Big Textile Show Leicester](#) – Mary and I will be running 3 workshops across the weekend
- 8-10 Nov** – Compton Verney Textile Fair (TBC)

Thank you for your time and in anticipation of seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Fran

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*If you would prefer not to receive further communication from me, please let me know.*