

SEW TODAY – Jan 2005

Graduate Showcase

Louise Gardiner -

Already an established artist and illustrator, Louise Gardiner was exhibiting as the 2004 embroiderers guild scholar. Louise creates the most fantastic stitched illustrations using her Bernina sewing machine. 'The quirky and speedy nature of the machine needle enables me to draw as if with a fixed pen, sometimes slowing down to create thick nobly lines or speeding up and moving the canvas so fast that the thread breaks and wilder thinner lines are formed.'

At first Louise would spend hours drawing out the illustrations and then machine stitching, until she realized she could 'draw' straight onto the canvas with the machine needle. She first creates the figures then embroiders their clothes, hair and shoes using tiny patterns. All her work is original free machine embroidery. Louise has worked for The Guardian newspaper, Selvedge magazine and The National Pyramid Trust. She is currently working on a children's hospital commission for the Gloucester Royal Hospital, which will coincide with a show of all the original embroideries.

Julie Watkins