



Because I love You / free machine embroidery, appliqué, painting on canvas, 100 cm x 100 cm / 2010



Louise Gardiner

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線彩層疊的絢麗風情

Louise 的作品常被形容活力十足、色彩繽紛、充滿個人風格。她則認為自己的作品流露現代感，因使用複合媒材顯得豐富華麗。她用層層的線和光亮耀眼的金屬光澤布料，如歌唱般地，表達心中的想像。

創作時，Louise 先用裁縫機按照紙上的設計稿繡出畫面輪廓，然後再用畫筆上色和繁複的貼花裝飾黑色輪廓線的區域。通常她會盡可能將畫面填滿，用機器刺繡的方式創作層層色塊和布料組成的 3D 刺繡作品。但這真是極度消耗時間的工作，Louise 真希望能計算出到底裁縫機走了幾哩路呢！最近她為 COLLECT 藝廊創作的系列作品，每一件就需 100 到 250 小時的時間，她幾乎用盡了全身的力氣。而她最想問的是：「什麼時候才結束啊～」。

飄·舞·繡

Louise 在孤獨的荒地探索移動的意義，尋找想像的繽紛花園。

Louise 畢業於倫敦 Goldsmith's College 織品系，之後前往曼徹斯特都會大學攻讀插畫碩士。她在英格蘭赤郡小村莊裡的牧場成長，非常專注於牧場的工作也熟知經營的技巧。十幾歲的時候甚至賣起冰淇淋了！她很早就知道自己喜歡畫畫，但從沒想過有一天會以此為業，特別是刺繡，但堅定的信念和天生的創造力讓她一路堅持到現在。她覺得自己是個外向的人，但也很珍惜獨自創作的時間，也樂於藉由教學和他人討論和分享創意。

I trained on a BA Textiles at Goldsmith's College in London and later completed a Masters Degree at Manchester Metropolitan University in Illustration. Having been brought up in a small village on a dairy farm in Cheshire, England I had a strong work ethic and developed entrepreneurial skills working on the farm and as a teenager, running an ice cream business. I was always passionate about drawing but I never imagined I would make a living from art, especially embroidery but a strong will and innate sense of creativity has meant that I have persisted. I am an extroverted person but really value time alone to create. I also love to share creativity with others by teaching.

dpi: How will you describe your art style?

Louise: I am told my work is very individual, energetic and rich with colourful detail. I would say it was modern, maybe luxurious in its use of mixed media. I express myself with layers of stitch, experiment with beautiful light reflective and metallic fabrics and try to make work which sings with feeling.

dpi: What materials, tools or techniques do you usually use in your embroidery works? How long does it take for one piece of works generally?

Louise: I use a sewing machine to trace the outlines of my drawn designs through paper, I then embellish and fill these black stitched drawing with tiny areas of painting with a small brush and layers of complicated applique. Usually, I adorn all the flat surfaces whether painted or

fabric, with free machine embroidered stitches building up 3 dimensional layers of colour and texture. I spend hours and hours working in my studio and I wish I could measure the miles that I travel on my sewing machine! The recent pieces that I completed for COLLECT took between 100 and 250 hours each and demanded every little part of me. The question is knowing when to stop!



Hello Blossom / free machine embroidery, appliqué, painting on canvas, 100 cm x 100 cm



赫然發現閃耀的汗水

最近 Louise 常想這幾年下來，刺繡創作所需耗費的精神和體力的密集程度。她很驚訝地發現這件工作幾乎佔掉了她所有的人生，直到她看到了之前拍下的作品照片，她才驚覺到自己作為創作者的成長和累積了數量龐大的作品，也難怪有背痛的問題！她說，刺繡和其他手工藝技術一樣，相當耗費心力，而她從沒想過要踏入這行！但這一切就這麼自然地發生了。

Louise 覺得自己在刺繡創作上是一個完美主義者且很有企圖心。她開始創作越來越多的大型作品且隨著年紀增加，作品精緻華麗的程度也隨之增加。刺繡細緻豐富的細節和閃亮的光澤讓 Louise 深深著迷，沒有任何一件事能使她如此陶醉。對她來說，線的百變風情有永恆的價值，自古以來，任何平面如果沒有線的裝飾，都將顯得不完整！

dpi: Why did you choose embroidery as your way of illustration? How does it appeal to you?

Louise: Recently I have been thinking about the mental and physical intensity that my work has required over the years. I find it quite astonishing that it has quite literally taken over my life to the point that I have sacrificed a conventional existence. It is not until I look back at the sheer

quantity of work I have photographed over the years that I realise how much I have developed as an artist and how much work I have produced, it is no wonder my back aches. Free Machine Embroidery like most hand done craft techniques is a physically and mentally demanding medium. I never planned to do it! It suited me as it was spontaneous and required no planning.

I am an absolute perfectionist and I am very ambitious with this medium. The pieces are getting bigger and bigger and more ornate as I get older. I cannot find anything else as appealing as embroidery with its alluring and intricate detail and light reflective qualities. Thread has a creative permanence...a place in our history and anything flat seems unfinished until it is embellished with stitches.

開出自我與人生的花

近幾年，Louise 嘗試許多不同的主題，其中她相當喜愛創作與圖案和自然的螺旋花紋有關的作品。在她的作品中，具象的圖案並不常見，畫面上所呈現的大部分都是她腦中突如其來的混沌想像。

在花為主題的作品中，Louise 希望表達的是自我的情緒及傳達人們在世界上短暫且稍縱即逝的人生經驗。她覺得自己是個感情非常豐沛、充滿熱情且心思細膩的人，Louise 說，或許這系列的作品

延伸了她自身對生活的期望。同時，也希望畫面能刺激人們對美感、正向態度、情緒、行動和愛的感受。住在四周被自然圍繞的鄉村，這樣的環境深深地影響了她的創作，現在的她迫不及待地想要嘗試更多不同的色彩搭配，尤其是明亮的顏色！

dpi: Many of your embroidery works were created with floral images. Why did you choose flowers as subject? What message did you want to convey?

Louise: In the last few years I have explored a wide variety of subjects but I do really enjoy working with pattern and creating organic swirling forms. I use very little direct visual reference in my work and most of the work is a hotchpotch of ideas and shapes that tumble out of my imagination.

The floral pieces I hope are a way of expressing my emotional self and communicating the very transient and fleeting life experiences that we have on this earth. I am a very sentimental, enthusiastic and thoughtful person and I suppose that these pieces are an extension of the feelings I have about what I expect from life. I also hope to inspire feelings of beauty, positivity, emotion, movement and love through this imagery. Living in the country and being surrounded by nature influences me and I am addicted to finding exciting colour combinations. I am addicted to bright colour.

誇張逗趣的討喜角色

《Figurative》系列色彩明亮，角色活潑有朝氣，相當討人喜歡。Louise 說，這系列有趣的作品，其實是她開始刺繡時的創作，當時與 Woodmansterne 出版社合作，創作了很多這類型的作品。《The Volunteers》是其中之一，創作靈感來自 The National Trust 組織的志工女士們和 Louise 在牧場長大的背景！她喜愛創造逗趣的角色，自己本身也喜歡嘗試誇張的穿著跳舞、大聲的笑，所以這些以人物為題的作品才會如此繽紛，還出現了英國人的古怪習慣！她特別喜愛看到用服裝表現自己、偶有瘋狂舉動而自得其樂的人，而《Figurative》系列真是將這點展露無遺啊！

dpi: Your "Figurative" series looks vividly pleasant. Could you share the creating process of "The Volunteers" with us?

Louise: Originally, I established my career doing funny figurative work and have a range of figurative designs with a publisher called "Woodmansterne". The Volunteers is a fun illustration inspired by the ladies that volunteer for an organisation called The National Trust here in the UK and also my farming background. I love creating fun characters as I also love dressing up myself in ridiculous outfits, dancing and having a laugh! These pieces are colourful and quirky illustrations of British eccentricity. I love it when people express their personality through their clothes, have wild moments and can laugh at themselves.

Delivering Tea / free machine embroidery, appliqué, painting on canvas, 42 cm x 75 cm / 2010

The volunteers / free machine embroidery, appliqué, painting on canvas, 75 cm x 75 cm / 2011



飄零小草的成長軌跡

《You Blow Me Away》系列耗時七個月完成，共有五張作品，每件作品的大小是 110 公分 x 110 公分。Louise 憑藉直覺在此系列中藉由爆炸般的自然元素，探索移動的概念。雖然她一再強調刺繡是一件勞力密集且極度講求細節的創作方式，但它擁有立即且強烈的傳達力，因此，Louise 覺得一切都值得。《You Blow Me Away》靈感來自卑微的風滾草離開自己的根而隨風飄泊的過程，就這樣風滾草從 Louise 心中的荒地，飄到了倫敦最有活力的藝廊。當風吹起了楚楚可憐的風滾草，荒蕪無生氣的意象漸漸加深，因此，畫面上亮麗出場，希望得到關注的訊息，好像風滾草產生了一股活力和能量。

Louise 熱愛實驗各種配色方式，喜歡將尼龍、金屬感、反光材質與皮革或塑膠混合使用，讓它們彼此之間產生隱約的變化。在此系列裡她也試著挑戰優雅華麗與浮華庸俗的界線。她希望在《You Blow Me Away》描繪的是雲霄飛車般的創意表現，及想像的無限可能，同時也讓大家都看到她身為當代刺繡藝術家所做的突破和努力喔！

dpi: Could you talk about the 5 pieces of "You Blow Me Away"?

Louise: The series took 7 months to create and each embroidered panel was 110cm x 110cm. In this series of 5 works I am exploring the notion of movement by intuitively creating explosive, organic designs. I attempt to produce embroidery that despite its labour intensive and finicky nature, has immediate dynamic impact. This sequence is inspired by the odyssey of the humble Tumbleweed fracturing at its roots, randomly travelling through the dry landscape of my mind and into one of the most exciting galleries in London. As the wind blows this tragicomic Tumbleweed along, symbolic of humourless desolation, it develops and grows in intensity, dresses up for the occasion and demands attention as if generating its own energetic force or electricity.

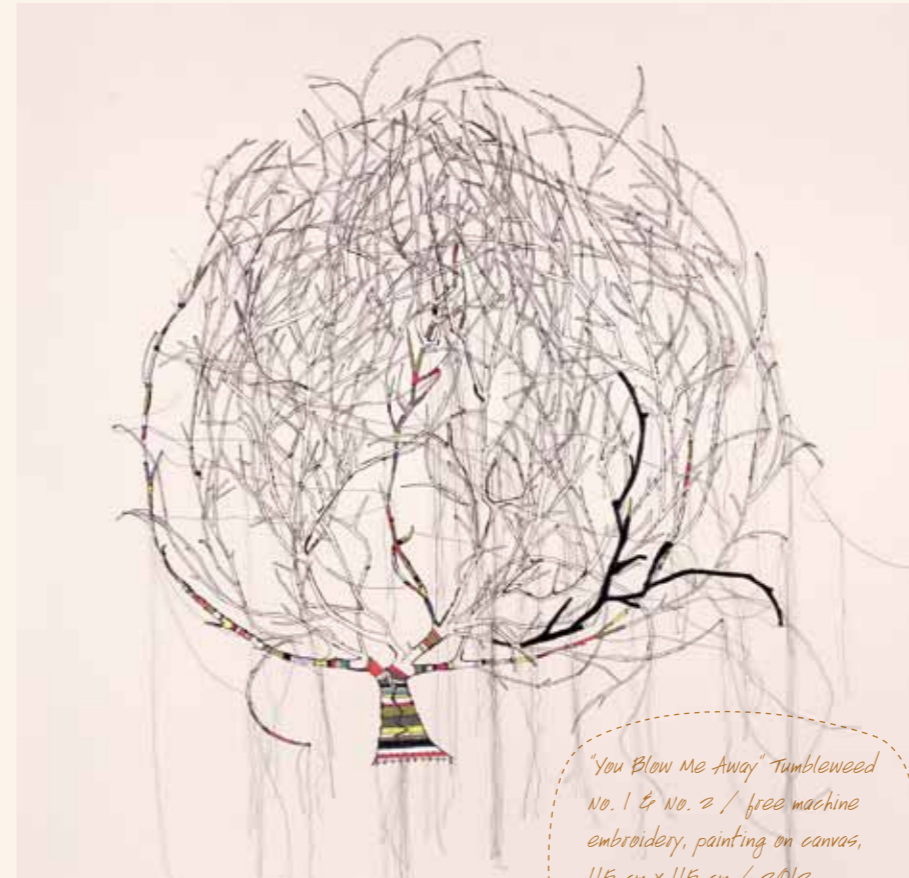
I am passionate about exploring exciting colour combinations, neon, metallic and reflective materials which subtly react with light such as leather or PVC. I attempt to push the boundaries of the classic and ornate, versus flamboyant kitsch. I hope that this series illustrates both the

roller coaster journey of creativity, the many possibilities of an idea and the challenging processes I have developed in my practice as a "contemporary embroideress" with a twist.



*"You Blow Me Away" Collect Exhibition (detail of 5 works on walls)
/ free machine embroidery, appliqué, painting on canvas / 2012*

*"You Blow Me Away" Tumbleweed
No. 4 & No. 5 / free machine
embroidery, painting on canvas,
115 cm x 115 cm / 2012
COLLECT exhibition at The
Saatchi Gallery, London*



*"You Blow Me Away" Tumbleweed
No. 1 & No. 2 / free machine
embroidery, painting on canvas,
115 cm x 115 cm / 2012
COLLECT exhibition at The
Saatchi Gallery, London*



電音與刺繡的美麗衝突

在工作室時，早上 Louise 習慣聽廣播，但下午或傍晚她喜歡放電子音樂。很多人知道她喜歡聽舞曲、電子或鼓打貝斯等音樂後，都覺得很驚訝。她說，也不知道為什麼！可能大家覺得刺繡藝術家都聽古典豎琴演奏吧！Louise 準備了很多不同類型音樂以搭配不同的心情或是引發創作動力。因為刺繡創作講求速度且相當費力，是個需要堅強毅力和耐心的工作，而音量且能振奮人心的電子音樂可以幫助她順利完成工作。但上色階段聽的音樂就較溫和囉！Louise 說，她的創作靈感都來自音樂，工作室裡有一整套音響呢！音樂對她來說實在是太重要了，真的是一位時髦的刺繡藝術家！

dpi: Could you describe your typical day working in studio?

Louise: I listen to the radio in the morning but in the afternoon or evening I play a lot of electronic music. People are often surprised to hear that I love dance music, electronic music and drum and bass...I don't know why! Maybe it's something to do with what people expect of an "Embroideress" listening to classical harp music maybe? I have a huge range of music to suit my mood or get me going. My work is fast and laborious in its process...there's many bits that simply require tenacity and patience. So...Loud and intriguing electronic music helps! Maybe calmer vocal based music for the painting stages. My work is HEAVILY inspired by music...I have a fantastic music system and speakers in my studio. Music is imperative in my process. I am a modern woman!

dpi



*Louise Gardiner's studio at Styal,
Cheshire, UK / 2012*

20 x 20_{cm}

dpi: 除了刺繡，有其他感興趣的事物嗎？

Louise: 喜歡聽現場演唱，參加節慶、露營或戶外活動。最近發現烹飪有療癒的功用呢！和朋友一起喝酒吃美食實在很幸福。

dpi: 放假時通常會去甚麼地方？

Louise: 長時間坐著作針線活對身體負擔其實蠻大的，所以每幾個月會去印度做瑜珈伸展身體、到海邊走走或是爬山什麼的，也喜歡滑雪和出海。

dpi: 有沒有座右銘呢？

Louise: 「憑感覺，試了才知道！」

dpi: 身為藝術家，最害怕甚麼？

Louise: 關節炎。

dpi: 如果沒靈感的時候會做甚麼？

Louise: 休息，是為了走更長遠的路。

dpi: 有其他嗜好嗎？

Louise: 做印度甜酸醬。

dpi: 如果可以，會想變成哪一種動物？

Louise: 可能是狐猴吧……好像可以在樹枝上盪來盪去。

dpi: 最近有讀過甚麼樣的書嗎？

Louise: 最近有三本書才看到一半，有點無聊，其實。

線軸 Spools of Thread

最重要的部分就是上下兩端。

剪刀 Scissors

剪布料就是讓我感到無限的滿足。

一支好用的畫筆 A Fine Good Quality Paintbrush

好東西才能做出好作品。

布洛芬鎮痛藥 Ibuprofen

長時間工作下來的必備鎮痛藥。

壓布腳 Free Machine Embroidery Foot

刺繡用。

線圈 Thread

只要是亮的顏色我都喜歡。

紙膠帶 Masking Tape

少了它，我就不會是現在的樣子了。

各種奇形怪狀的布料 Unusual Fabrics

做貼花剩下的碎布，總有一天我要用這些創作一件大作品。

亮黃色顏料 Illuminous Yellow Paint

越亮越好！

茶包 Tea Bags

我愛喝茶！

dpi: 請說出三件必備的外出用品。

Louise: 圍巾、耳機、我的雙眼。

dpi: 人生如果可以重來一次，會想做甚麼？

Louise: 希望可以有一種讓我曬黑、變胖、開開心心，就算種菜維生也無所謂的生活，有會跳舞的狗、一群人邊演奏樂器邊旅行，想到就在海邊或伴著夕陽飲酒作樂，很悠哉吧！

dpi: 如果可以擁有一種超能力，那會是甚麼？

Louise: 會世界各國所有的語言。

dpi: 說說三樣最喜歡吃的東西。

Louise: 青花魚、紅酒、沙拉。

dpi: 最喜歡的歌是哪一首？

Louise: 今天是化學兄弟《未來的未來》裡的〈Your love is lifting me〉。

dpi: 如果遇到失眠怎麼辦？

Louise: 翻來翻去。

dpi: 曾經做過最瘋狂的事？

Louise: 自己跳到一個硬紙板做的箱子上，後來進了醫院。

20 cm