

## **Sue Stone**

### **Bio**

Sue Stone is a British artist and is best known for figurative, textural, stitched compositions that often have a partial narrative. Her ideas are drawn from anywhere and everywhere; the seen, the heard, the experienced, and her life observations.

In Sue's work past and present combine to create the allusion of a journey through life. Quirky compositions about imagined journeys and unknown people, sit alongside self portraits and work about more serious issues.

The techniques she uses are simple and straightforward; a deliberately limited vocabulary of hand embroidery stitches often combined with machine stitch, appliqué, and acrylic paint.

Sue's teaching style is one of individual, personal tuition. She has taught workshops throughout the UK, in France, USA and Canada and regularly teaches online for [textileartist.org](http://textileartist.org)

Sue has exhibited her work worldwide and is an exhibiting member of the world renowned 62 Group of Textile Artists, an elected Fellow of the Uk Society of Designer Craftsmen and a member of the European Textile Network.

### **People and Their Stories**

This experimental workshop will focus on exploring relationships through the medium of portraiture by looking at family dynamics, friendships, or even the relationship between unknown people in a photo picked up in a thrift store.

The aim of the workshop is to encourage you to use exploration and experimentation to question what we really mean by portrait. We usually think of a portrait as an artistic representation which captures the likeness of a person but even more important is to capture their personality and their mood or in the case of a portrait of more than one person to capture the interaction or lack of interaction between them.

A portrait often shows a person looking directly at the artist in order to most successfully engage the subject with the viewer but a portrait can convey so much more than a likeness!

The workshop will start with a short digital presentation which will look at relationships between groups of people and why portrait doesn't always mean capturing a likeness. The presentation will also cover, how colour can be used to convey personality and how

it can change the mood of a portrait and why inanimate objects can represent the subject's identity instead of including an image of the subject itself.

Over the period of 5 days you will use simple hand stitch techniques and appliqué to explore design and composition, learn the importance of sampling and how to add visual value to your piece by creating richly patterned or textural surfaces.

By the end of the workshop you will have the necessary skills to help develop your own narrative work further.

This is primarily a hand stitch workshop but you will have the option to focus entirely on hand stitch, or add machine stitch, combine both techniques or add appliqué and mixed media.

The techniques used in this workshop are simple and straightforward and are suitable for all abilities.

You are asked to bring a selection of drawings or photographs, text or anecdotes you wish to include or use as personal inspiration for your work. A full guide to choosing suitable images to work from will be sent out in advance of the workshop.

## **Supply List**

Hand & (optional) machine stitch 5 Day workshop

### **Items students should bring from home**

- Participants should bring:
- Basic Drawing equipment: Journal/sketchbook and pen/pencil
- Dressmakers Tissue Paper eg Burda - for tracing
- Tracing paper or Freezer paper for making templates
- Basic hand sewing equipment • embroidery needles (for both thin and thick threads), pins, dressmaking scissors and sharp embroidery scissors.
- **Threads** • Small amounts of any of favourite colours and types of threads, cotton, silk, wool for hand and machine stitching eg DMC stranded cotton (or similar) - Please include both subtle + brighter colours. Essential colours for portraits - 3021, (grey/brown), Blanc, 3799 (dark grey) 310 (black) + 407 (dirty pink) + a selection of assorted colours for eyes & hair -

- an assortment of other threads which could include: cotton, linen, wool, silk of various types, thicknesses, weights & colours
- Cotton machine threads eg Superior threads - Masterpiece or similar - an assortment of colours for fine details

### **Fabrics**

- Washed linen or cotton/linen union fabric - natural colour or other colour suitable for skin tone. Size approx 45 x 120 cms (for backgrounds & sampling)
- Lightweight calico /lightweight cotton/muslin (washed/scoured) Size approx 45 x 120 cms (for background stabiliser)
- Selection of small amounts of washed natural fibre fabrics - various colours, plains/patterns for appliqué. This should include fabrics/colours (suitable for fusing & appliqué for eyes, lips, hair. clothing.)

### **Optional**

- **Fusibles** • Mistyfuse for fusing fabrics (or similar light weight fusible suitable for hand stitching)
- Embroidery hoop (optional)
- Lightbox (optional)
- Camera or phone/iPad to record your progress and to take photographs of Sue's handling collection or work to use as reference for developing your work further.
- Sewing machine NB: Participants are required to bring their own sewing machine. Your sewing machine needs to have an appropriate foot and you also need to be able to take the 'feed dog teeth down'.
- Don't forget the foot pedal and lead!
- Please make sure your machine has recently been serviced and is in good working order
- Please bring: spare sewing machine needles and bobbins. Free-machine embroidery/darning foot.

### **Pre workshop assignments or preparations**

- Collecting Images
- This workshop requires the participants to bring a selection of images as a starting point. Participants should prepare by collecting images figurative and/or non figurative. These

can be either your own drawings or photographs (please bring a selection). Please also bring images of anything else you wish to include in your work which helps to tell your story. It could also be a piece of text or anecdote you would like to include or use for reference.

- A full guide to choosing images will be provided prior to the workshop.
- Pre-wash any fabrics to be used for appliqué

**Venue to provide****Studio equipment**

1 x projector/screen if available

2 x Iron & ironing board

2 x light box for tracing images

Baking Parchment - 1 roll or 2 Silicone Sheets to protect iron if using fusibles

Sue will provide a selection of examples of her own work