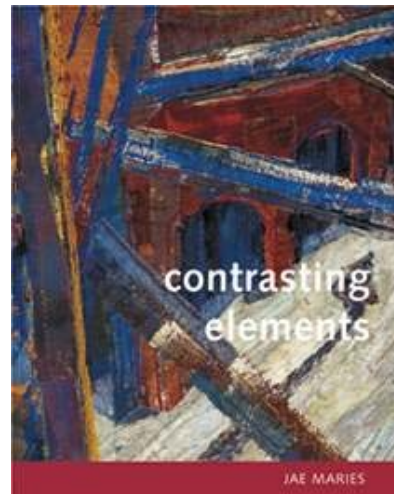


## News & Views

### d4daisy books

Maggie and Michael Wicks continue to be delighted with their collaboration on d4daisy books.

Latest releases include Sue Rangeley's long-awaited book, 'Embroidered Originals' and 'Contrasting Elements' by Jae Maries.



You can see a detail from the Sue Rangeley book above.

Maggie's book, 'Stitches, Straps & Layers' continues to inspire and is proving a best seller. It was launched last year at the same time as 'Stitching the Textured Surface', by Lynda Monk & Carol McFee. Both these books are reviewed in this issue.

## Knitting & Stitching Shows

Alexandra Palace, London 8-11 October  
RDS, Dublin, 29 October - 1 November  
International Centre, Harrogate, Yorkshire, 19-22 November

There's a strong line-up of artists in this years Shows. I'm so delighted that we're going to get the chance to see Cindy Hickok (USA). She has long been one of my favourites and, when I curated an Embroidery magazine exhibition, she was top of my list and proved immensely popular. Her work is both clever and funny. Her 'take' on Old Masters is to put them all in a setting such as the lunch table, choose suitable characters from a range of famous paintings and free-machine them sitting at the table.



I love the title of Louise Baldwin's exhibition, 'Life is Strange and Difficult and Funny' in which she focuses on the things that drive us all nuts - the balance of work and life and the roles we play. To achieve this end, she works with a combination of collaged mundane domestic packaging, layers of stitched imagery, doorknobs, handles and childhood crafts like patchwork and pom-poms.

Who doesn't love Alice Kettle! I'm really looking forward to seeing her collaboration with Helen Felcey and Alex McErlain. The title 'Clay and Thread' gives us a clue and it will be of particular interest to see how Alice's collaboration with thread and ceramics compares with Jean Draper's with Ken Jones, which we've seen in previous years. Very different, I suspect, as this will take the form of thrown slipware bowls and jugs by Alex McErlain, drawn and scratched into by Alice Kettle, and similarly complementary textile works.

Rozanne Hawksley has been a towering figure in the textile world for many years and her installation takes the viewer back to previously unseen, early work, some of which was never completed. The exhibition includes insightful sketches of herself and others. She has revisited these pieces to create new work that is a commentary on modern life, its stresses and joys.

It will also be good to see new work by the group 'Fusion' who have chosen to work with the title 'Direction'. Exhibiting at Knitting & Stitching Shows is an opportunity for Fusion to showcase the wealth of talent and passion for textile practice that has developed and continues to flourish in the North East of England.

All-in-all, an intriguing mix and we'll have a good selection of textiles to show on Maggie's stand TGE6 in the Textile Gallery.

## New venture for Twisted Threads

We all know Twisted Threads as organisers of the Knitting & Stitching Shows and the Festival of Quilts. Here's a new departure for them: they have taken over a villa in southern Italy, Masseria della Zingara for a variety of special interest holidays with a particular emphasis on textiles. Masseria della Zingara – the house of the gypsy – is located in Puglia, in the heel of Italy, just 7 kilometres from the coast and within 40 minutes drive from either Bari or Brindisi airports. It has recently been restored to a high level of specification.

Masseria della Zingara is an important building. It features on maps of the area and was built in the late 17th or early 18th century. It is located in 20 acres of private land set principally to olives, almonds, figs and cherries and yet is conveniently adjacent to the village of Triggianello. The Masseria is perfectly located to explore the beautiful medieval white towns in the hills whilst also providing easy access to the unspoilt coastline. Puglia is the garden of Italy and is rightly famed for both food and wine.



Maggie was booked to run one of her inimitable courses in May. She doesn't normally run courses of this length but was persuaded by the beauty of the location, the chance to capture local colour and the promise of an inkjet printer from organiser Andrew Salmon. Maggie's course featured digital photography (this meant 'outings') and the chance to explore the exciting prospect of translating the images into stitch through unusual methods and media (see detail from 'The Long Diary' below).



Lots of courses are running throughout the year and there is bound to be a huge demand so get in quickly. Here's the website to look at for more information:  
<http://www.twistedthread.com/pages/masseria/textile-holidays.aspx>