

Hand & Lock Prize for Embroidery 2010

Overall brief: Style...

This year the Brief encourages in depth visual research on a given topic, where sampling and follow through to a final conclusion is the order of the day. Currency must be researched and considered when designing embroidery for fashion or fine art textiles. Whilst machine embroidery and/or printing techniques may be utilised, they should never outdo the uniqueness and individuality of any form of hand surface embellishment.

Our topic this year is **MILITARIA**. The laces, trimmings, braids, badges, epaulettes, sashes and flags. Coat work with cuffs, collars, pockets and tails. Delve deep into the history of the military, being imaginative with your sources and let this theme set the mood when you decide on a brief below. Also remember, the judges will be looking at your backup work in order to understand your thinking and the journey you have made to arrive at your final outcome. Make sure that you record your thoughts and developments in the way of sketchbooks and samples.

LIGHT RICH

Does light richness exist? It does if rich and complex processing is lightened skilfully. Here is a Brief with a mood to recreate the effects that time has on heavy embroideries through enzyme exposed and sand-blasted surfaces, creating work that looks like mending or repair and with 'oxidised' metallic arabesques. This theme offers the opportunity to play with construction, exposing the complex work that lies beneath all military apparel. Precious works done with both traditional and cutting-edge techniques will result in a light and sophisticated neo-vintage.

Colours - Shades of chocolate, flesh, raspberry pink, khaki, Parma violet, tangerine and chestnut.

ABLE

A commitment to rework the age-old manual skills of cooking, building, sewing and mending. This socially aware Brief plays on the idea that we are the creators of our own cultural baggage. It sustains that simple ingenuity is our biggest strong point and that the secret lies in perfecting one's skills. The best creativity comes from the hardest of times and splendour is always more vivid in adversity. Look at, in the past, how culture has clung to military ceremony for reassurance and how brilliance is magnified in times of recession. Fabrics are illuminated with an opaque radiance.

Colours - mid grey, clay, blood orange, caramel, sage, pale grey, chocolate and denim.

ANOMOLY

This theme is pervaded by an atmosphere brimming with anomalies, oddities and romantic curiosities. To combat a cruelly mechanized and defect-free reality, here is an imaginary dream that reawakens new aesthetics and where animals, insects and human aspects meet. Mankind as soldiers resisting a computerised revolution. A bold colour palette traces its steps through a magical, thick forest of emerald green, purple and stormy blue. Structures are essential, while floral prints decorate creased fabrics.

Colours - amphibian green, bilberry, pale lilac, deep plum, grasshopper, dark brown and dusky pink.

AIR REACTIONS

Rotors and windmills, stormy seas, magnificent waves, sudden splashes and sails. In a plane amongst wind-strewn clouds, parachutes, hot air balloons and power kites. Smoke and steam, typhoons, hurricanes and tornados. This theme should represent our place along side the power and delicacy of nature. It should use light and transparent fabrics, fluid jersey and ultra-fine knits. Structures in waves, puckering, gathers and textured falling lines.

Colours - blue and grey tones, lead, antique blue, light foam and sea breeze, crystal, blue smoke, indigo, sky blue and azure.