



Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London

**SUMMER WORKSHOP 2026**

**Susan Purney Mark**

**Cloth to Codex**

**Thursday, June 4 - Saturday, June 6, 2026**

**9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, Western University**



### **Cloth to Codex with Susan Purney Mark**

Explore the art of mixed media bookmaking and discover innovative ways to combine cloth, paper, paints, and threads. In this workshop, you will learn a variety of techniques such as image transfer, simple screen printing, asemic text and creative stitches to make personal narrative books, scrolls, and folios that express your unique artistic vision. Transform traditional materials into expressive, tactile storytelling objects that reflect your creative voice.

**Skill level:** all experience levels welcome. You can work to your comfort level.

**Class size –** Maximum 19 plus a facilitator

### **Artist Statement**

In my art career I have explored and experimented with found textiles working into layers of narratives through paint, dye, stitch, and mark-making. Each repurposed or preowned fabric—carries memory and these materials become canvases where the marks I create—lines, dots, patterns—constitute personal expressions transcending conventional language, each stitch embedding energy into cloth.

Recently, I've incorporated marks from fellow artists, investigating how environment influences artistic development through collaborative community imprints. My current work explores women's bodies as vessels

through sculptural textile forms echoing ancient ceramics, connecting contemporary reproductive rights with historical constraints on women's bodily autonomy.

These textured creations challenge how women's bodies have been simultaneously venerated and controlled throughout history, mirroring our paradoxical relationship with natural resources—both worshipped and exploited.

Through my textile exploring, I use these layered narratives, inviting viewers to discover both collective and personal histories embedded within thread and cloth.

#### **Social Media:**

<https://www.susanpm.com>

<https://www.susanpm.com/blog/>

Instagram @susanpurneymark

Facebook and YouTube: @susanpurneymark

#### **Artist's Biography**

Susan, an award-winning textile and surface design artist, resides and works on Pender Island, British Columbia, on the traditional and unceded lands of the *WSÁNEĆ* and Tsawout peoples. Her island surroundings of ocean vistas, rich forests and abundant wildlife inspire her work.

Her education includes the London City & Guilds programme in textiles and surface design, plus formal studies at the Ontario College of Art and Vancouver Island School of Art. Over three decades, Susan has mastered diverse techniques, focusing on cloth as artistic expression. She specializes in applying dyes and paints to fabric, wax resist, screen printing, and precise colour sequencing.

Grounded in family needlework traditions, her practice has evolved from functional craftsmanship to innovative artistic exploration. Her work emphasizes mark making, text, and narrative within controlled colour palettes, shifting towards abstraction through layering cloth, paper, and found materials.

Susan has authored books on contemporary quilting, taught internationally, and offers online workshops and mentorship programmes for textile and visual artists.

#### **Education**

**University of Victoria, Victoria, BC**— Political Science

**Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS** – Political Science

**City and Guilds, London UK**

- Embroidery & Design 1987

**Gail Harker Creative Studies Centre, LaConnor WA**

- Textile Design 2007

- Art & Design Level 3, 2010

**Vancouver Island School of Art, Victoria, BC**

- Drawing Basics 2021

- Contemporary Abstract 2024

**Fibre Arts Australia 2022 – online study**

-additional workshops and study time with international textile artists including Nancy Crow, Jan Meyers Newbury and Ruth Issett

#### **Exhibition History**

2025 – **Sooke Fine Arts Show**, Sooke, BC

2025 – **Current Threads** – Surface Design Association, Duncan, BC  
2025 – **The Industrial Shoreline** - solo exhibition - Smithers Art Gallery  
2025 – **From a Distance** – Pitt Meadows Art Gallery  
2025 – **Vessel: Art of the Feminine**, Craft Council of BC, Granville Island  
2024 – **Beyond Pinch Pots** – Sointula Art Shed, Sointula, BC  
2024 – **Maris** – **Group Exhibition** - Nocefresca, Milis, Sardinia  
2024 – **Southern Gulf Islands Art Show** – Mayne Island, BC  
2024 – **The Industrial Shoreline** – solo exhibition - Richmond Art Gallery  
2024 – **From a Distance** – collaborative exhibition, Qualicum, BC  
2023/24 – **World of Threads Exhibition** – solo exhibition – Oakville, ON  
2023 - **Southern Gulf Islands Art Show** – Honourable Mention  
2023 – **Ladysmith Fine Arts Exhibition**, Ladysmith BC  
2022 – **The Industrial Shoreline** – solo exhibition, The Gallery at Hope Bay, Pender Island, BC  
2022 – **Sooke Fine Arts Show**, Sooke BC  
2022 – **Connecting Threads** – SDA Exhibition, Duncan BC  
2022 – **Cowichan Valley Fine Arts Show** – Duncan, BC  
2021 – **Finding the Light**, Pender Island, BC  
2021 – **Sooke Fine Arts Show** – Jan Johnson Award for Social Commentary  
2021 – **10 x 10 Show**, Pender Island, BC - Curator  
2020 – **Cowichan Valley Fine Art Show**, Duncan, BC  
2020 – **Southern Gulf Islands Art Show** – Honourable Mention  
2020 – **Sooke Fine Art Show**, Sooke BC  
2020 – **Datum Levels** – Surface Design Association, [www.surfacedesign.org](http://www.surfacedesign.org)  
2019 – **Textile Talks** – Ptarmigan Gallery, Pender Island BC  
2019 - **Intertwined** - Blönduós, Iceland  
2018 - **Women's Work** – Il Centro - Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver B  
2018 - **Language and Symbol** - Victoria Arts Council  
2018 - **East Meets West**, Concurrent Exhibition, Duncan, BC and Annapolis Royal  
2018 - **Industrial Perspective** - Cityscape Gallery, North Vancouver, BC  
2017 - **Sooke Fine Arts Show**, Sooke BC  
2017 - **National Juried Show**, Canadian Quilters Association – Merit Award

## Awards

2025 – **Sooke Fine Arts Show** – Geri Pudwell Award for Fearless Creativity  
2025 – **Catalyst Grant Recipient** – The Wilding Foundation  
2021 – **Sooke Fine Arts Show** – Jan Johnson Award for Social Commentary  
2020 – **Southern Gulf Islands Art Show** – Honorable Mention  
2017 - **National Juried Show**, Canadian Quilters Association – Merit Award  
2015 - **Niche Award Winner**, Washington DC

## Publications

Author and co-author of:

**Quilted Havens** – 1998  
**Fat Quarter Frenzy** – 2000  
**More Fat Quarter Frenzy** – 2003  
**Simple Stained Glass Quilts** - 2008  
**Give & Take Fabric Applique** – 2011  
**Accent on Angles** – 2011

Author of:

Fabric Embellishment with Color, Surface Design & More – DVD  
**Give & Take Applique** – DVD (co author)

Soy Wax Inspirations - DVD

Author of numerous magazine articles about quilting, stitch and surface design techniques - notably in Quilting Arts magazine

<b>Related Work History</b>	2016-2017 - <b>Sessional Instructor</b> - Vancouver Island School of Art 2019-2003 - <b>Surface Design Workshops</b> - Canada, United States, and Australia 2025 -1998 - <b>Online Workshops</b> via weblinks 2025 -1993 - <b>Quilt and Design Instructor</b>
<b>Residencies</b>	2024 – <b>Eutopia Art Residency</b> , Kavala Greece 2024 – <b>Nocefresca Art Residency</b> , Sardinia, Greece 2024 – <b>Sointula Art Shed</b> , Sointula, BC 2022 – <b>Lakkos Art Residency</b> , Heraklion, Crete 2018 – <b>Iceland Textile Centre</b> , Blonduos, Iceland

**\*MEMBERS' FEE: \$375**

**\*NON-MEMBERS' FEE: \$400**

**\*KIT FEE: \$15 (approx)**

### **Cancellation and Refund Policies:**

- All requests for refunds must be in writing and received by the Treasurer via email or mail. If received by mail, the postmark will be used as the fee request date.
- Full refunds less \$25 administrative fee up to 45 days prior to workshop. ● 50% refund between 44 and 30 days prior to the start of the workshop.
- No refund after the 30 day final refund deadline.
- Any extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Executive separately from the policy.

Cancellation: If a Summer Workshop is cancelled for any reason by CEG, London, (e.g. insufficient number of registrants), a full refund will be issued to all registered participants.



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### Workshop Kit

Kit fee: \$15 payable to the teacher

**Susan provides the following as part of the kit** – these can be expensive to purchase on your own or there might be too much and it's easier to share

- linen waxed thread for bookbinding
- extra large sheet of watercolour paper
- tissue paper for laminating
- raw canvas
- extra inks and paint to use and share
- acrylic matte medium,
- clear gesso for sealing
- pipettes
- other fun stuff

## Supply List

We'll be making several books, finishing some and beginning on a few more...books are like chocolate, one is never enough! I suggest that you might like to work within a theme but keep it broad: trees, fruit, faces or ?? Maybe collect some source materials...

Please bring the following items - expand your choices if you want but these are the essential items - I will list your kit items at the bottom of the page.

- if you are coming with a friend, consider sharing a cutting mat and some of the other items. Please label scissors etc with your name!
- Think about a colour palette that you like to work with and plan your papers, threads and fabric accordingly

**Fabrics:** small amounts of different types - think of evenweave, linen, hemp or some with texture for stitching, neutral colours, some will be used for mark making and painting, a total amount of no more than 2 metres, leftover or semi/finished projects that could be cut up and repurposed, old damask or linen tablecloths, napkins (even with holes in them), Hankies, napkins, thrift store finds, old clothing (cuffs, collars, little detail bits, pockets - make a book about secrets in pockets....)

**Papers:** assorted plain and coloured papers for book pages, pad of watercolour paper (suggest 11" x 14" or similar – share if you like), rice paper, anything interesting with texture or pattern Found papers – receipts, ledger paper, newspapers, magazines, gift wrap, doilies, cardboard from boxes, textured papers etc....Leftovers from experiments

**Basic stitching tools:** needles (chenille and tapestry) paper and fabric scissors plus thread snips, rotary cutting equipment, stitch ripper, awl, measuring tape, 18" metal ruler with cork back, bone folder (punching cradle - only if you have one)

**Threads:** assortment for hand stitching, Perle cotton, embroidery threads, white, cream and black sewing threads, and colours of your choice

**Other:** 2-3 brushes, one fine and one 1" bristle, containers for water, foam try or similar as a paint palette, plastic to cover work surface, sketchbook for samples and notes, 2-3 colours of acrylic paint, fluid acrylics or acrylic inks are my favourite (plus black or white) Art/Exacto knife with extra blades, white candle stub, eyedroppers or pipettes, a few small binder clips to hold pages together

**Fun Stuff:** buttons, beads and baubles, fancy things to stitch to pages, weird and wonderful ephemera, any bits that you'd like to add - no rules here! But don't bring it all....

Any questions - email me at [susanpm@shaw.ca](mailto:susanpm@shaw.ca)

**Miscellaneous:**

\*Coffee mug      \*Name tag if you are a member of CEG, London



