

**GABRIELLA VERSTRAETEN**  
Individual and Creative Embroidery Design

- Born: Melbourne, 1961
- 1988 – present Commenced professional practice as a fibre artist and freelance embroidery designer.
- 1993 – 2000 Design studio based at the Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne.

**EDUCATION**

- 1996 CAD training, Atlanta, Georgia USA – embroidery digitizing
- 1985 – 1987 Bachelor of Art & Design, Textile Design.  
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.
- 1982 Bachelor of Education, Art & Craft, Major Textiles.  
Melbourne University.

**INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE STUDY TOUR ESCORT WITH *InterAsia***

- 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004 China on the Old Silk Road.
- 2001, 2002, 2006 Northern India
- 2003, 2005 Vietnam
- 2004 Southern India
- 2005, 2008 South West China
- 2006 Peru
- 2007 Burma
- 2010 Mexico & Guatemala

**EXHIBITIONS**

- 1981 *Stepping Out*, Hawthorn City Art Gallery, Melbourne (joint exhibition student show)
- 1982 *Limited Containers*, Gryphon Gallery, Melbourne (joint exhibition of final year students – pieces selected for tour)
- 1983 *Miniature Textiles*, Ararat Gallery, 2nd Biennial Exhibition (piece on tour).
- 1986 *Craft Event*, Mornington Peninsula Craft Event (joint exhibition – piece highly commended).
- 1987 *Embroidery with Wool*, Embroidery Guild Biennial Exhibition of creative embroidery.  
*Stitch '87*, a creative exhibition of original embroidery by members of the Embroider's Guild.
- 1988 *Be Wear! Be Worn!*, group exhibition of wearable art featuring the work of seven textile artists at Roar Studios 2.
- 1988 *Craft Event*, Mornington Peninsula Craft Event (joint exhibition – pieces highly commended).
- 1989 *Wearable Art*, Sale Regional Art Gallery, group show.
- 1990 *Take a Seat*, Blaxland Gallery, Myers Melbourne, 30 invited contemporary designers and artists, June.  
*Contemporary Fibre in Focus*, Maker's Gallery, Sandringham, six women embroiderers, July.  
*Passing Threads, Stitching Time*, The Little Gallery, Toorak, a solo featured show, September.  
*Craft Event*.
- 1991 *Dame Nancy Butterfield Exhibition* inaugural prize, Embroidery Exhibition, Adelaide.  
*Melbourne Festival Craft Exhibition*, Meat Market Craft Centre.  
*On My Own*, Creative Exhibition, Embroiderer's Guild of Victoria.
- 1992 *Threadworks*, New Zealand Embroiderer's Guild Association Exhibition, Christchurch.  
*Embroidery '92*, Embroiderer's Guild of Victoria.

- 1994 DMC – International Selected Embroidery Touring Exhibition of Japan.  
*Embroidery '94* – Embroider's Guild of Victoria.  
*Sew & So at the Malthouse*, Contemporary Fibre Artists Group.
- 1995 *The Art of the Stitch*, London Royal School of Needlework
- 1996 *Hurrah!*, Contemporary Fibre Artists Group, Meat Market Craft Centre.  
*Stitch Off*, Annual Industry Based Designers Exhibitions, New York, USA and later Tokyo, Japan – Overall Grand Prize winner.
- 1997 *Eurostitch*, Annual Industry Based Design Awards in Amsterdam and Cologne. Honourable Mention.
- 1998 *Eurostitch*, Annual Industry Based Design Awards in Amsterdam and Milan – 2nd and 3rd place prize winner in selected categories.  
*Australian Story*, 3 Australian Fibre Artists invited by Maderia UK to hold a special exhibit at the annual Stitching Show at Harrogate, UK.
- 1999 *Textiles 21*, Exhibition of 21 invited international fibre artists to reflect in the new millennium – Wirral UK.
- 1999–2000 *Masters of Technique*, 16 of Australia's top textile artists and designers invited to reflect on the medium of the print. Touring exhibition, Monash Gallery of Art
- 2001 *Wrapture*, first solo exhibition of Gabriella's work at Gallery 11, private gallery Mentone Parade, Mentone
- 2002 *Hurrah! Group exhibition*, bi-annual group show, Steps Gallery, Carlton. Melbourne
- 2003 *Australian Craft Showcase*, City of Glen Eira, invited annual exhibition
- 2004 *Scarf lane*, annual Craft Victoria exhibition of shawls and wraps  
*Hurrah! Group exhibition*, bi-annual group show, Steps Gallery, Carlton. Melbourne  
*Art Embroidery – new territories* Musee Textile Wesserling, France
- 2005 *Hurrah! Group exhibition*, bi-annual group show, Steps Gallery, Carlton. Melbourne  
*Two Tempting*, joint exhibition with Marylyn Verstraeten, Skepski Gallery, Carlton, Melbourne
- 2008 *Hurrah! Group exhibition*, bi-annual group show, Steps Gallery, Carlton. Melbourne  
*Tempting Two*, joint exhibition with Marylyn Verstraeten, Skepski Gallery, Carlton, Melbourne

## ARTICLES

- 'Precious Eggs in a Safe Place', *Craft Victoria*, March 1984 No. 143, p. 3.
- '1983 Hoechst Textile Award', *Hoechst Report*, Vol. 12, No. 3, 1983, p. 17.
- 'Textile at the Zoo', *Fibre Forum*, Vol. 3, Issue 1, Autumn 1984, p. 11.
- 'Precious Eggs in a Safe Place', *Interacta*, No. 1, 1984, p. 12.
- 'Textile Artists coming to school', *Doncaster and Templestowe News*, July 2, 1985, p. 6.
- 'The machine lends a hand', *Malvern Caulfield Progress*, Feb. 7, 1990, p. 12.
- 'Putting on the Ritz', *Handmade Magazine*, Australian Women's Weekly, Autumn 1990, pp. 26–29.
- Gabriella Verstraeten, *The Fine Art of Machine Embroidery*, Kristen Dibbs, Simon & Schuster, 1990.
- Gabriella Verstraeten, *A Sense of Place* by Jerry Rogers, 1992, pp. vii, xii, 53–54, Angus & Robertson.
- 'Glamour in Gold', *Bernina Sewing Club Magazine*, Autumn Winter, No. 17, 1991/1992, pp. 6–11.
- Gabriella Verstraeten, *People in Textiles*, publication by Home Economics Department, Deakin University, Jan. 1992, pp. 27–28.
- Gabriella Verstraeten, *Patchwork Clothing and Accessories*, 1993, Di Cross.
- 'Musical Moments', *Craft Home Magazine*, July/August, 1993, Vol. 5, Issue 4, pp. 13–18.
- 'Talking to Gabriella Verstraeten' – *Craft Home Easter* 1994, p. 55

- 'Art with a Difference', *The Age*, Tuesday, 16 March 1993, p. 16.
- 'The Winners', *Stitches USA*, Sept. 1996.
- 'Dancing in the Freezer', *Maderia News UK*, Sept. 1996.
- 'Brilliant Borders', *Machine Embroiderers of Australia*, J.B. Fairfax & Co., 1997.
- 'Design Workshop', *Threads Magazine*, USA, Feb./March 1999.
- 'Millennium Musings', *The World of Embroidery*, Vol. 50, No. 4, July 1999.
- 'Gabriella Verstraeten', *Masters of Technique*, Sally Milner Publishers, Jan. 2001.
- 'Wrapture', *Textiles Fibre Forum magazine*, Vol 20 Issue 1 no.61, 2001-05-30
- 'Wrapture', review, *Machine Embroidery magazine*, Express Publications Vol 6 no.3,2001
- 'Gabriella Verstraeten' - Profile, *Machine Embroidery magazine*, Express Publications Vol 6 no.4,2001
- Work selected for inclusion in *Fibre Arts Design Book no. 7, 2004* , Lark books p. 46
- 'Machine Embroidered Mastery', *Australian Quilters Companion*, Vol 5.6 No. 22, Universal Magazines p. 58, 59, 2004
- 'Gabriella Verstraeten', *Art Embroidery, a wide focus on new territories*, Govin & Govin publications, France p. 24, 2005

## **PROJECTS**

### ***Artist in Residence***

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| 1983       | Royal Melbourne Zoological Board in conjunction with the Education Department.                      |
| 1984       | Lauriston Girls' School.  |
| 1985       | Doncaster High School.  |
| 1992       | Caulfield Grammar School.   |
| 1994       | Deloraine Community, Tasmania.  |
| 1995       | Methodist Ladies' College.  |
| 1997       | Camperdown Community, Victoria.<br>Kingswood College, Box Hill; Presentation College, Windsor.      |
| 1998, 1999 | Presentation College, Windsor.  |
| 2000       | Presentation College, Windsor; Ringwood Secondary College; Tintern Grammar School; Star of the Sea. |

### ***Scholarships***

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| 1983 | Finalist in the Hoechst Textiles Award.  |
| 1994 | Ethel Oates Study Scholarship – Embroiderers' Guild study tour to Europe and UK – visited the studios and colleges of fibre artists and museums who specialised in stitch. |
| 1996 | Stitch – Stitches Magazine USA – 2 weeks of embroidery digitizing training in Atlanta USA.   |