



Earth, Water, Air, and Fire

The elements have inspired Beyond Stitch for their latest exhibition

For our sixth exhibition, **Beyond Stitch** are moving to the small town of Woodbridge, which stands alongside the River Deben, opposite the atmospheric Sutton Hoo, the burial site of an Anglo-Saxon King. The venue for the exhibition is Art Space, a popular gallery which enjoys natural light and is situated on the main thoroughfare of the town.

The theme for our current exhibition is based on the elements. This has been interpreted in very different ways by each individual artist. Some have looked at the sights, sounds, and textures of natural objects and landscapes

associated with the four elements - earth, water, air, and fire - while others have trawled their memory of science lessons from decades ago to base work on the periodic table. Poetic licence is rife in some of the work! Many exciting pieces on this theme are being shown but there are also other interesting works in the exhibition including 3D pieces.

As a group, we encourage one another to try new techniques and to this end we spent a day in a member's garden (before lockdown!) eco dyeing fabric. We had an excellent day, with lots of laughter and enjoyed a 'bring and share' lunch. The results of the eco

dyeing were very interesting. Some were excellent but not all with huge success! However, several of us hope to do more eco dyeing in the future and I'm sure you will find some of the results in the exhibition as some dyed pieces have been used.

Whenever possible we visit exhibitions by other artists, historic houses, museums, gardens, and galleries - any excuse for a day out somewhere interesting with an enjoyable lunch! Although, I feel four trips to the Christian Dior exhibition may have been a bit excessive! We only managed two to The Red House at Aldeburgh.

Clockwise from left: *Houses on the Hill; Woodbridge Boats; Eco Printed Embroidered Dress; A Village Garden; Southbeach Low Tide; Spindleberry.*

Each member of the group works very differently. Tres paints beautiful pieces using fabric and thread and always does an intricate preparatory painting of her piece. The rest of us can only admire with envy! Marion immerses herself in natural dyed fabrics and threads, often using plants from her own garden and her witch's cauldron is often brewing up a colour concoction. Sue loves traditional embroidery techniques, especially appliqué and goldwork, and produces exquisite work. Ed always amazes us with the exciting variety of work produced in her summerhouse, which is an escape

from all her family commitments. Trudie loves to use unusual objects in her imaginative pieces. Often these are found while travelling to far flung places - look out for her seed pods! Mandy loves to try out any new technique but her real passion is embroidery of either hand or machine. Consequently, her sewing machine has regular visits to the sewing machine doctor! ©

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At the time of print, it was uncertain whether the exhibitions featured would go ahead due to current world conditions. We have decided to still feature all previously planned exhibitions as they are interesting and inspiring to read about; however, we would urge all readers to check the details online for all exhibitions before making a trip to avoid disappointment in the case of cancellations or rescheduled dates.