

Caren Garfen Curriculum Vitae

"Caren Garfen's work engages with the story of women's handwork in the home, where feminine stitch signified a well-bred and socially advantaged environment. The evidence of her time spent on embroidering or hand sewing has changed in its significance; careful stitches are transformed from a signifier of submission and routine labour to a political statement." Eve Ropek, curator of The Dartboard for Witches exhibition, 2010.

CREATIVE EMPLOYMENT Artist (2007 onwards)
Self-employed Craftsperson (1992 - 2006)

EDUCATION BA (Hons) Applied Arts, First Class (2007)

EXHIBITIONS

2017

Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Slovak Museum, Czech Republic (until 15 Jan)
Making Space, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Olympia, London (2-5 Mar)
London Eating Disorder Conference, Institute of Education, University of London (22-24 Mar)
Making Space, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh (27-30 Apr)
Hand & Lock, 250 Years Conference, Bishopsgate Institute, London (13-16 Jul)
International d'Art Miniature, Gallerie Louise-Carrier, Quebec, Canada (18 Jun-3 Sep)
Desperate Artwives, Feminism in London Conference (FiLiA), Institute of Education, University of London (14-15 Oct)

2016

Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Tatra Gallery, Poprad, Slovakia (Feb-Mar)
A Group Gathering, Herefordshire Archive & Records Centre, Hereford (Apr-May)
Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Historical Museum, Bielsko-Biala, Poland (May-Aug)
Transgressing Traditions, Schweinfurth Art Center, Auburn, New York, USA (Jun-Aug)
Making Space, Macclesfield Silk Museum, Cheshire (Jun-Sep)
A Group Gathering, Unit Twelve Gallery, Stafford (Jun-Aug)
Wit of the Stitch, Ruthin Craft Centre, Denbighshire, North Wales (Jul-Sep)

"Garfen's 'Augustus and Edie', couched in funereal black frames, is perhaps the only overtly dark piece in the show. Two narrow, hand-stitched samplers, their letters barely a millimetre tall, tell stories, Edward Lear-style, of anorexia and body dysmorphia. Breath-taking in their tender minuteness, here is the wit of the stitch writ large." Ellen Bell, Embroidery magazine

Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Art & History Museum, Gyor, Hungary (Sep-Oct)
Anne Kelly at The Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace (Oct), Dublin (Nov) & Harrogate (Nov)
World of Threads Festival, Queen Elizabeth Park Comm. & Cultural Centre, Ontario, Canada (Oct-Nov)
Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Slovak Museum, Czech Republic (Oct 2016 - Jan 2017)

2015

On My Mother's Knee, Gwynedd Museum & Art Gallery, Bangor, North Wales
People and Process, Salts Mill, Saltaire, West Yorkshire
62 Group Now, Upfront Gallery, Penrith, Cumbria
Feast: pleasure+hunger+ritual, Lexington Art League, Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

"Caren Garfen employs her talent for intricate hand-stitching to create subtle and delicate pieces with profound messages. Her works explore themes of gender stereotypes, femininity, and domesticity all the while retaining a sensitive and accessible approach." Artist Feature - Lexington Art League

A Stitch in Time: a Day of Embroidery, British Library, London
The Diana Springall Collection, Art in Action, Waterperry, Oxford
Abode, Walford Mill Crafts, Wimborne, Dorset
A Group Gathering: Daphne's Glove, The Weavers Gallery, Ledbury, Herefordshire
Textile Art of Today, Slovak National Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia

2014

Solo Gallery Space, Knitting & Stitching Show, Harrogate & London
Construct, Ruthin Craft Centre, Denbighshire, North Wales
Selected, Newark Park National Trust Property, Stroud International Textiles, Gloucestershire

2013

British Textiles Exhibition, 62@50, Showa Women's University, Tokyo, Japan
On My Mother's Knee, Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre, South East Wales
Cloth and Memory 2, Salts Mill, Saltaire, West Yorkshire

"Caren Garfen's work for this exhibition is a remarkable translation of meticulous research into meticulous outcomes. Working in the most painstaking hand-stitch, she re-presents this information in a manner that is direct, understandable and completely humane in her use of the tools and the domestic/work garment." Professor Lesley Millar, *Cloth & Memory 2* catalogue

Featured Artist, The Beetroot Tree, Draycott, Derbyshire
Internationale d'Art Miniature, Galerie Louise-Carrier, Quebec, Canada
The Button Project, Macclesfield Silk Museum, The Heritage Centre, Cheshire
Small Talk, Constance Howard Research Centre, Goldsmiths College, London
Hand Stitch Perspectives Book Tour, L'Aguille en Fete, Paris

2012

Interventions, Platt Hall, Gallery of Costume, Manchester
Royal Academy of Arts, Summer Exhibition, London
AA2A Exhibition, Todd Fine Art Studios, University of Hertfordshire
62@50, Holden Gallery, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester
Drawn to Craft, Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton
Package Tour, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Dublin, Harrogate & London
"Nadelwerke" (Needle Works), Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
Made - The Design and Craft Fair, One Marylebone, London

2011

Celebrity Paws, Chris Beetles Gallery, St James's, London
5.8 x 4.1 Exhibition, Holden Gallery Cafe, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester
Home Autour du Monde, Paris, France
Arts Depot open, Apthorp Gallery, London
5th International Exhibition of Mini Textile Art, Kherson, Ukraine
Designer Maker Market, Clerkenwell Design Week 2011, St John's Square, London
At a Tangent, Gallery Oldham, Cultural Quarter, Oldham
Designer Crafts, The Mall Galleries, London

2010

Origin, Old Spitalfields Market, London
The Dartboard for Witches, Contemporary work in textiles, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth University, Wales
Bending More Lines, Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
Quilts 1700 - 2010, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
Bending More Lines, Museum Rijswijk, Netherlands

2009

Art of the Stitch, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace & Harrogate
Bending the Line, Hub, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
AA2A Exhibition, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.
Art of the Stitch, Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest, Hungary
Designer Crafts, The Mall Galleries, London

2008

Art of the Stitch, Deutsches Textilmuseum, Krefeld, Germany
Embroiderers' Guild Scholar, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Birmingham, Alexandra Palace, Dublin & Harrogate
One Year On at New Designers, Business Design Centre, London
Art of the Stitch, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Graduate Showcase, Stitch & Craft, Olympia, London
Designer Crafts, Mall Galleries, London

2007

Embroiderers' Guild Graduate Showcase, The Knitting & Stitching Show, Birmingham, Alexandra Palace, Dublin & Harrogate
New Designers Selection, the.gallery@oxo, London
New Designers, Business Design Centre, London
Degree Exhibition, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield

2005

Courtyard Art Gallery, Hertford, Herts

ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

2017

One Year On x Alumni Interviews, Blogspot newdesigners.com (24 Jan)
London Eating Disorder Conference, 13th International Handbook (p.64, 22-24 Mar)
Popular Patchwork magazine, (Sep issue)

2016

Textile Nature, Anne Kelly, Batsford Books, (Aug 2016, p.104-105)
Contemporary Stitch Volume 2, e-book, TextileArtist.org Resources, (April 2016)
#1 New Directions, Exhibooks Art Book Publisher, (Apr 2016, p.66-69)
Workbox magazine, 'Writing Textile Nature', Anne Kelly, image, (Apr 2016, p.31)
Art that inspires Caren Garfen, textileart.org, (25 Feb 2016)

2015

House of Coco, 'Creative Spotlight: Caren Garfen', www.houseofcoco.net, (23 Feb)
'Reel Lives of Saltaire Women', Colin Coates, www.saltairevillage.info/Reel-Lives, (Jun)
Feast Artist Feature: Caren Garfen, www.lexingtonartleague.org/art-stories, (Jul)
Embroidery magazine, 'What a waste', (Jul/Aug, p.14-15)
Textile Art of Today, 2015-2017, catalogue
Installation & Site-Specific #2, The State of Art, Series 2, Bare Hill Publishing, book (Oct, p.98-101)

2014

Embroidery magazine, Exhibition Review, Cloth and Memory 2 (Jan/Feb, p.56)
Embroidery magazine, Exhibition Review, On My Mother's Knee (Mar/Apr, p.54)
Construct, Ruthin Publication, catalogue (Apr, p.10-15 & 21)
Stroud News & Journal, 'Artist stitches a story of heiress's suffering' (23 Apr, p.46)
Embroidery magazine, Preview, Selected (May/Jun, p.15)
Wales Arts Review, 'Construct' by Adam Somerset (Jun, Vol.3, Issue 11)
'The Cutting (& Stitching) Edge - Caren Garfen', Jamie Chalmers, mr x stitch, on-line (21 Aug)
'Textile Art Around The World', Ellen Bakker, Textile-link, book (Oct, p.49)

2013

Embroidery magazine, Preview, Cloth & Memory 2 (Jul/Aug, p.8)
Cloth & Memory 2, www.clothandmemory.com
Cloth & Memory 2, edited by Prof Lesley Millar, Salts Estates Ltd, book (Aug p.50-53)
Cloth & Memory 2, BBC TV Look North, Cathy Killick (15 Aug)
'A gripping yarn of Salts Mill's girl', Emma Clayton, Telegraph & Argus (15 Aug, p.22-23)
Text in Textile Art, Sara Impey, Anova Batford, book (Aug, p.42,50,56,94,102)

"Text is a crucial component of the work of Caren Garfen, whose wryly humorous and sharply observed textiles are the result of extensive research. The entertaining accessibility of her work masks a serious underlying social commentary." Sara Impey in Text in Textile Art

'Handcraft of the World', Quilts Japan (Oct/Nov, Issue 155, p.60-61)
Stitch magazine, 'From Sketch to Stitch - Caren Garfen' (Oct/Nov, Issue 85, p.30-33)
On My Mother's Knee, catalogue (Nov, p.33-36)

2012

Radical Thread, Professor Lesley Millar MBE (ed.), Direct Design Books (Jan, p.48-49)

Embroidery magazine, 'Learning Curve' (Jul/Aug, p.42-45)

Hand Stitch Perspectives, by Alice Kettle & Jane McKeating, Bloomsbury Publishing, book (p.126-128)

"Caren translates her interests in gender politics and women's issues into witty, beautifully executed artworks. Her subject matter is the role of women in the twenty-first century. She works around specific themes, such as women and housework or women and dieting, researching a subject methodically before embarking on meticulous, carefully considered finished pieces that provide a humorous critique of contemporary society." Professor Melanie Miller in Hand Stitch Perspectives

Textiles, The Art of Mankind, Mary Schoeser, Thames & Hudson, image (Nov, p.345)

Inspired London: A Guide to Handmade in London, Mary McDermott, book (Nov, p.40)

'An interview with Caren Garfen', www.textileartist.org (Dec)

TALKS

Royal College of Art. Manchester School of Art. V&A. The Knitting & Stitching Show. University of the Creative Arts. University of Hertfordshire.

AWARDS/SELECTIONS

2017

International d'Art Miniature, Quebec, Canada - Selected

2016

Transgressing Traditions exhibition, New York, USA - Selected

World of Threads Festival exhibition, Ontario, Canada - Selected

2015

Permanent collection, Salts Mill, Saltaire

Textile Art of Today, Touring Exhibition, Eastern Europe - Selected

Feast: pleasure+hunger+ritual exhibition, Kentucky, USA - Selected

2014

Artist-in-Residence & Mentor, University of Hertfordshire

Solo Gallery Space, The Knitting & Stitching Show - Invited

Visiting Artist, Jane Austen House Museum in conjunction with University of the Creative Arts, Farnham and Royal School of Needlework - Invited

2013

Cloth and Memory 2 exhibition, Salts Mill, Saltaire - Selected

2012

Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition - Selected

Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition - Work of the Week

2011

AA2A Artists Access to Art Colleges Scheme (Arts Council & Lottery Funded) - Selected

Celebrity Paws - Charity Commission - Invited

Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition - Shortlisted

2010

Contemporary quilt for Victoria & Albert museum for 'Quilts 1700-2010' exhibition - Commission

2009

Crafts Council National Register of Makers - Selected

Design for cover of catalogue, An Embroiderers Eye: the Diana Springall collection - Commission

2008

AA2A Artists Access to Art Colleges Scheme (Arts Council & Lottery Funded) - Selected

Art of the Stitch Exhibition - Selected

Member of The 62 Group of Textile Artists - Selected

The New Designers One Year On Award - Selected

Embroiderers' Guild Scholarship Award - Selected

Wallpaper journal - Top 100 Graduate

2007

New Designers (BDC) Award - Shortlisted

Embroiderers' Guild Graduate Showcase - Selected

University of Hertfordshire - Prize for best overall performance at assessment