

Carole Fiore

Just as painters use paints and brushes, fiber artists use needle and thread. Embroidery is not just the cross stitch samplers of previous generations. Embroidery today takes advantage of traditional threads and ground fabric as well as new and unusual ones. Embroiderers even use construction materials and things not usually thought of in conjunction with embroidery. But what is embroidery? Embroidery is anything that can be accomplished using a needle with an eye.

Zinnias in a Vase (after Clementine Hunter) is done in needlepoint. This stitch can be accomplished using a half cross, continental, or basketweave stitch all give the same appearance on the front of the canvas. This tent stitch piece was worked on an even weave canvas that had 18 threads to the inch. This is the same technique that was used for many church kneelers.

Florida – State of the Arts is a mixed media piece that started as homage to antique maps but quickly became a way to honor Florida artists. Stitched on 32 count linen, the surface embroidery was done with single strands of embroidery floss. The map was hand colored in the style of antique maps using acrylic paints. The Great Seal of Florida is a gel transfer that is then affixed to the linen with gel medium.

The most innovative piece in this collection is *Sailor Take Warning*. The old mariner's saying, "Red sky at morning, sailor take warning," inspired this mixed media rendering of the iconic Saint Marks Lighthouse. The materials used were sequentially layers on the lutradur ground. Acrylic paint was enhanced with fabric collage, machine embroidery and hand stitching, mirror organza, hand-dyed cheese cloth, memory thread, cotton and silk floss, straw silk. Incorporating various surfaces into this landscape was the major challenge: varied textures of leaves and other vegetation, smoothness of the water; reflections on the water, roughness of the stucco-surfaced tower, the undulating tile on the roof, and reeds peaking up through the water along the shoreline.

Fiber Artist **Carole Fiore** has been stitching since she was in elementary school. Starting with simple cross stitch samplers using cotton floss, she has experimented with various forms of needle arts and many different threads. Carole has taken classes with many needlework Master Artists, including Ann Striet-Kurz, Merrilyn Hazelwood, Mary Long, Marion Scoular, Toni Gerdes, Jennifer Riefenberg, and Laura Smith. In 2016, Carole served as co-curator for *What's the Point? Embroidery as Art*, at the LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts (Tallahassee). In 2017 and 2018, Carole was juried into Fiber Forum, the art needlework section of the Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA). In addition to being a member of EGA, Carole is a member of the American Needlework Guild and the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework. In recent years, Carole has started exploring various techniques that create texture and depth in this (mainly) two-dimensional art form. Carole's art needlework canvas embroidery piece, *Dancing Woman*, was juried into the 29th Annual Art in Gadsden exhibition; *Moonrise over Lake Bradford*, the 30th Annual Art in Gadsden exhibition.