

All the latest quilting news

# FRESH PICKS

This month we explore slow stitching at home and abroad, as well as introducing threads and fabrics to warm up your stash over the winter.



## CREATIVE RETREATS

### Time Out

Escape from it all – and learn a new skill at the same time – by visiting Le Jardin du Berger in South Charente, South-West France. Qualified textiles teacher, Bronwen Shepherd, gave up her career in the UK to set up a studio space with accommodation to offer sewing holidays to those in need of an escape.

At Bronwen's rural retreat, you can enjoy some mindful stitching, fine-tune your free machine embroidery skills, or even learn to make your very first quilt. There are also bag making and dressmaking classes on offer. Bronwen's fully-equipped studio has Bernina sewing machines, an overlocker and all the other essentials you might require – all you need to do is pack your fabric, sun cream and swimming costume! Bronwen is very flexible when it comes to arranging workshops to suit individuals and groups, so get in touch to book your sewing getaway now! Visit [www.textileholidaysfrance.com](http://www.textileholidaysfrance.com) to find out more.



## CREATE YOUR OWN HEIRLOOM

# THE HANDMADE QUILT

We love *The Handmade Quilt* by quilt teacher, maker, author and regular contributor to *Today's Quilter*, Carolyn Forster. The new book provides a complete learning experience for beginners and a beautiful project for the more accomplished quilter, and together, you'll "discover the joy and serenity of slow stitching". The project is a sampler quilt made up of 15 individual blocks, starting with the basics and progressing to more intricate techniques with each block.

Carolyn runs Quilting-on-the-Go, the umbrella term for her many quilting activities, which comprises project books, patterns and templates, and a busy programme of teaching commitments. She also finds time to travel across the pond to America twice a year, including a visit to the



International Quilt Market in Houston. Carolyn is a natural teacher and this comes across in her books, which are technique-led and all about instilling confidence – "I'd hate to think that anyone was being held back because of a lack of technique".

£17.99

The Handmade Quilt:  
A Complete Skill-Building Sampler  
Published by Landauer  
[foxchapelpublishing.com/Landauer](http://foxchapelpublishing.com/Landauer)



NEW FROM LIBERTY

# UP, UP AND AWAY

Adventures in the Sky is the new quilting cotton weight range from Liberty. Inspired by a fun-filled exploration of the night sky, the collection features stars, rockets, planets and even a Liberty hot air balloon. The colour palette includes dusky blues, soft greys and hints of pale yellow – perfect for your next patchwork project. [www.eqsuk.com](http://www.eqsuk.com)



Leave No Trace by Linda Bilsborrow

IT'S A DATE!

## A Day out in Nantwich

It's all happening at Nantwich Civic Hall on Sunday 20th January, and with 15 traders lined up, it's shaping up to be a great start to the new year. The specialist group, Contemporary Quilt from The Quilters' Guild, will be showing their *In Print* exhibition featuring 40 quilts created in 2018.

We love Linda Bilsborrow's take on the theme, with her *Leave No Trace* quilt (pictured above). In addition to seeing the exhibition, you can also enjoy some retail therapy with the help of The Bobbin Patch, Castle Court Quilter, The Corner Patch, Patchwork Gallery, Quilters Needs, Sew Easy, Lilliput Crafts, The Sewing Patch, Crafts and Quilts, The Shuttle, European Quilting Supplies EQS and The Quilting Box. Plus, three new retailers are joining the 2019 event – The Denim Company, Laurel Byrne Treasure Quilt and Westalee Design Rulers, and WeaverDee Sewing & Craft. See *Diary Dates* for more info. [www.quiltersguild.org.uk](http://www.quiltersguild.org.uk)



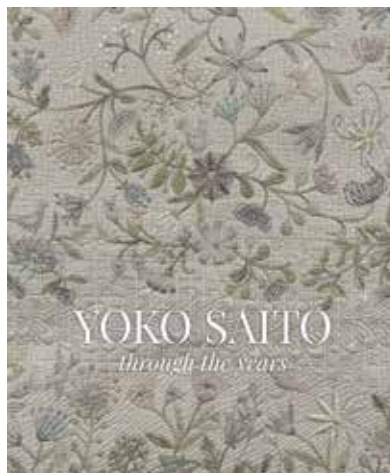
YOKO SAITO

## Retrospective

Yoko Saito, the celebrated Japanese quilt artist, has just released her new book, *Through the Years*. Celebrating Yoko's exquisite work, the book showcases her love of detail and unique use of a taupe colour palette.



Yoko decided to take up quilting after she was inspired by a range of antique quilts she saw in America, and over the years has created her own style and designs. She set up her quilting school and shop, Quilt Party, in 1985 and has made regular appearances on Japanese television and in magazines, as well as publishing numerous books. In 2008, she commemorated 30 years of her creative career with the *Yoko Saito Quilt Exhibition* at the Matsuya department store in Ginza, Tokyo. £34.99  
Martingale & Co  
[www.roundhousegroup.co.uk/shop](http://www.roundhousegroup.co.uk/shop)





The *Embroidered Stories* exhibition gives a fascinating insight into the lives of children in the 18th and 19th centuries



**EMBROIDERED STORIES**

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh is showcasing a collection of stitched samplers from the private collection of American philanthropist and collector, Leslie B. Durst. The exhibition, *Embroidered Stories*, features 70 sampler quilts made by children in the 18th and 19th centuries. The small pieces of needlework were made by girls, and occasionally boys, as part of their education, and contain information regarding each child's education, family, religion and interests.

The exhibition is a touching personal record of these children's lives, with each handmade quilt made in their formative years, recording the things most dear to them at the time. Through the stories they tell, and the research behind them, this collection of samplers reflects the changes in morality, education and the industrialisation of Scottish society at this time, while also providing a fascinating insight into women's history. Scottish samplers are unique in that

they often include the initials of extended family members and details of the place where the person lived. This has allowed collector Leslie B. Durst to identify the makers through genealogical research, often revealing surprising personal histories.

*Embroidered Stories*  
Exhibiting until 21st April 2019 and is free to visit. Go to [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk) for more information.



**MULTI-TASKING**

### Top Twenty!

Top up your thread collection with the new 100m reel packs from Gütermann. Made from 100% mercerized premium Egyptian cotton, these strong but pleasantly soft threads produce smooth seams, making them ideal for patchwork and quilting. They come in packs of 10 or 20 reels in a rainbow of colours.  
£14.25 for 10 reels  
£27.90 for 20 reels

Plus, pick up one of their new thread packs, which includes eight 100m reels of Sew All Threads. They're made from polyester and come complete with a handy edge shaper too, perfect for making short work of easing corners – you'll never run the risk of accidentally ripping delicate fabrics again!  
£14.25 for eight reels.

For stockist info, contact [Gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:Gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk)







**150 SHADES OF GREAT!**

**Cotton Couture**

Michael Miller's range of essential solids is positively dreamy to stitch with. Silky soft and luxurious, this vibrant collection features 150 different colours to choose from. Plus, its high density weave gives it a lovely handle, and it quilts beautifully. Visit the Michael Miller website to see stunning examples of projects using the Cotton Couture range.

[www.michaelmillerfabrics.com](http://www.michaelmillerfabrics.com)



Win this collection of colourful fabrics! Turn to page 43 for more info



**NEW FROM ANDOVER AND MAKOWER**

**QUANTUM LEAP**

Designed by Giuseppe Ribaldo (AKA Giucy Giuce), Quantum is just the ticket for quilters who love to use the whole colour spectrum in their quilts. The subtle tone-on-tone prints add another layer of interest to this versatile range.

[www.andoverfabrics.com](http://www.andoverfabrics.com)

[www.makoweruk.com](http://www.makoweruk.com)

**HEMLINE NEEDLES**

**Small but perfectly formed**

Often overlooked, the sewing machine needle is an essential tool for getting the best sewing results. Choosing the right needle for the job and ensuring that you replace your needles regularly are at the top of the quilter's checklist... in fact, we're believers in the mantra "new project, new needle"!

The Klasse collection from Hemline includes a needle for every type of project, including Universal, Stretch, Ballpoint, Jeans, Leather, Sharps\Micro, Quilting, Metalfil, Embroidery, Hemstitch, Top-stitch Twin Needles, Triple Universal and Overlocker/Serger. Each needle box is colour coded for easy reference and the flip-back top ensures easy removal. The needles are individually marked for quick identification so you can see at a glance the specific needle size.

From £1.85 per pack  
[www.klasse.com](http://www.klasse.com)







Clockwise from bottom right: Shruti Dandekar's quilt depicting the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj measures a staggering 256in x 96in; the organising body, Quilt India Foundation, comprises Varsha Sundararajan, Deepa Vasudevan and Tina Katwal (Proprietor of The Square Inch); Just one of the many competition quilts that will be on display this February

**CHRISTIAN DIOR COMES TO LONDON**

**Design Classic**

Next month, the V&A in London will open one of the largest and most comprehensive exhibitions ever staged in the UK on the House of Dior. Spanning 1947 to the present day, the *Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams* exhibition will trace the history and impact of one of the 20th century's most influential couturiers, and the six artistic directors who have succeeded him, to explore the enduring influence of the fashion house. We can't think of a better way to beat the winter blues!

*Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams*  
2 February–14 July 2019  
Tickets from £20  
The Sainsbury Gallery, V&A Museum, London  
Visit [www.vam.co.uk](http://www.vam.co.uk) for more information and to buy tickets.



**INDIA QUILT FESTIVAL 2019**

**GO EAST**

The very first India Quilt Festival is being held from 25–27 January 2019 in Chennai, Eastern India. It's being organised by Quilt India Foundation, which aims to promote quilting related events in India. Special events include a travelling exhibition from QuiltCon organised by the Modern Quilt Guild, workshops and lectures from Pat Archibald, the Tentmakers of Cairo, Shruti Dandekar and Patrick J Finn (both featured in Issue 30 of *Today's Quilter*). Learn about Kowdhis,



a traditional Indian Hand Quilting technique from renowned Kowdhi quilter, Nirmala Akka, or listen to Heather Grant discuss the history, evolution, influencing factors and guidelines of modern quilting. And, while you're there, why not add on a textile tour around the Indian regions of Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Gujarat? Sounds like a fantastic quilting holiday to us! Visit [www.indiaquiltfestival.com](http://www.indiaquiltfestival.com) to find out more.



Pérou short evening dress, Autumn-Winter 1954 Haute Couture collection, H line. A gift from Cecil Beaton. V&A Museum, London.