

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

8th February 2016

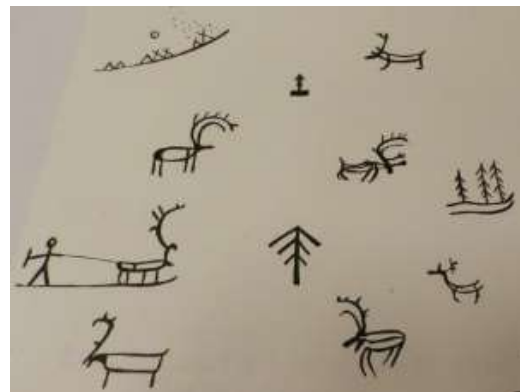
Speaker: Maria Boyle

The speaker for the evening was [Maria Boyle](#) who is currently resident artist at the [Studley Artists' Workhouse](#) in Warwickshire. Maria came late to textile art, after a career in market research, but has developed rapidly.

She gave us an insight into her creative inspiration and process for the series on "Lichen" which has occupied the past three years. Inspired by the Sami people of northern Sweden who follow the reindeer herds as they migrate in search of their staple food - lichen - Maria, who is half-Swedish, explained how important colour and texture is in her work.

Using a variety of textile techniques - dye, hand embroidery, appliqué, puff binder, knitting, and machine embellisher - but without a sewing machine, she has produced a highly tactile body of work in a restricted colour palette.

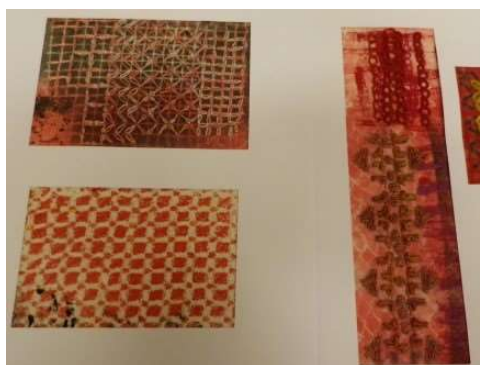
Some of her pieces are extremely large: "Migration" is 5cm by 32m, "Journey" 52cm by 3m. Owing to their size, they can be displayed in a variety of ways. Maria spends many hours in extensive research in reading and practical experiment before committing an idea to fabric resulting in a series of highly distinctive works.



The next competition in aid of Parkinson's UK is on the theme of "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party". Participants will be given a plate from which they must make a wearable hat, using any techniques they like, both textile and non-textile. The plates will be handed out at the March meeting and members should bring their finished hats to the meeting on April 14th. This follows on from our highly successful "Shoes" competition last year which produced some imaginative and beautiful works which were highly praised by the judges.

[Toolika Gupta](#), a researcher at the University of Glasgow, has contacted us about the possibility of leading a workshop on Indian embroidery. She will be in London in May/June and anyone who is interested in a 2 or 3 day workshop at this time should contact Jackie or Terry.

Members brought in work they had started at the January Textile Merry-Go-Round and at the recent chain stitch workshop which Janet Edmonds ran at [Workaid](#). Janet's workshop was extremely popular, with standing room only, so she will be conducting more workshops through the summer.



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