

Fiber Forum Retreat 2020

TEXTILES AND MEANING: DESIGN AND CREATIVE PROCESS

A Master Class with Susan Brandeis

April 26 – May 2, 2020

DoubleTree by Hilton Raleigh Brownstone-University
1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605



Susan Brandeis “Lost Language II: Ancient Teachings” 2011, 26.5”h x 70”w, Dyed, resist dyed, discharge screen printed, digitally printed, stamped, pieced, hand appliquéd, free-motion machine stitched, hand embroidered and quilted on cotton broadcloth, print cloth, heavy twill; with cotton embroidery floss and Valdani variegated thread; bamboo batting; pieced cotton backing.

This five-day retreat/workshop for advanced textile artists will explore ways to infuse greater individual expression into objects, to create more resolved visual compositions, and help break through to new levels of conceptual content. During the week, we will focus on the intertwined processes of creative invention and composition—the sequence of inspirations, imaginings, decisions, and actions with which we organize ideas and materials into harmonious and communicative artworks.

The class will start with *your* work, *your* thinking, and *your* search for artistic direction. As in a Master Class for vocalists, each participant will present some past works—some considered successful, some specifically considered *not* successful—which demonstrate her current ideas, aspirations, and accomplishments. We will discuss and evaluate those works to identify specific areas for improvement and the “next steps” in creative growth.

This class is designed specifically for those who have mastered textile techniques, have completed a considerable number of fiber artworks and want to invent better images, compositions, or forms. Instead of instant immersion in materials, we will slow down, consider, practice, discuss, and learn to control ideas and the tools of visual expression. Using brainstorming, imagining, and sketching, we will aim to create work that comes from the deeper reservoir of personal thoughts, feelings, and attachments. Our exercises will focus on the *generative* part

of the creative process—the steps that happen before you pick up a needle and thread—and on the *in-process* decisions that can refine and strengthen the work as you make it.

Each day, through hands-on creative “play” we will explore how to use sources of inspiration, generate and develop ideas, refine and connect them to deeper values. Through class discussions and written information, we’ll explore ways to use inspiring sources to generate good ideas, to better visualize the end product *before* the hand work begins, and to better coordinate the details along the way (color, texture, composition, choice of materials and techniques appropriate to the idea)—so that what you imagine is stronger and better focused, and what you make is closer to what you imagined.

Much of the initial hands-on work will involve papers, pens, pencils, colored pencils, paints, or markers—and your brain! Then you will use more familiar textile materials and techniques to translate some of the ideas you’ve developed into small stitched samples or collages.

Participants will bring all their own supplies and will take away sketches, lists, samples, studies, and *new ideas*. The class will *not* focus on making finished artwork but, rather, on pointing ways forward on your longer creative journey.

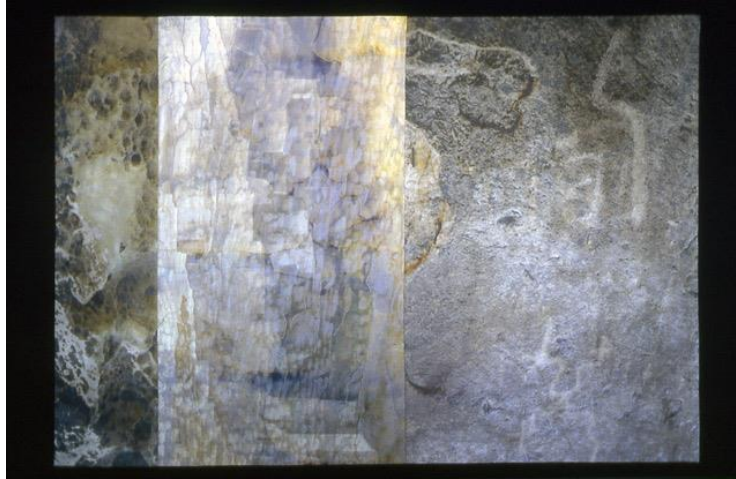


Lower center detail, “Lost Language II: Ancient Teachings”

SUSAN BRANDEIS recently retired from full-time teaching at North Carolina State University’s College of Design, where she was Distinguished Professor of Art & Design and a member of the University’s Academy of Outstanding Teachers. She served as the Director of Graduate Programs for the Department of Art & Design; coordinated undergraduate and graduate studies in Fibers and Surface Design; was a founding member of the Anni Albers Scholars Program faculty. She holds a Master of Science degree in Art Education from Indiana University and a Master of Fine Arts in Textile Design from the University of Kansas. She works with a wide range of students whose interests span the spectrum from designing textiles for mass production to creating one-of-a-kind art works. She has taught a wide range of courses in the textile arts and design including surface design, screen-printing, dyeing, digital printing, fibers materials and processes, off-loom structures, embroidery and surface embellishment, surface design, pattern, and color; as well as seminar courses in textile history, research methods, and contemporary issues.

Her creative work has focused on continuing investigations in dyeing and printing both industrially produced and hand-woven fabrics, the juxtaposition of pattern and color, the contrast of materials and textures, and digital printing and embellishment. Her explorations are directed toward developing a visual “language” of materials and techniques which communicates the essential qualities found in nature, inspired by hiking and visiting places of great natural beauty, and, more recently investigations of ancient scripts, palimpsests, faux text, and symbols.

Susan has written a book on expressive stitching, *The Intentional Thread: A Guide to Drawing, Gesture, and Color in Stitch*, (Schiffer Publishing, 2019). Her art works for the wall have been published in several books and in leading craft, design, and textile art magazines, and have been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally. She is represented in numerous private and public collections, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian. She has taught summer workshops at Penland School of Crafts (North Carolina), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (Tennessee), Haystack Mountain School of Crafts (Maine), Oregon College of Arts and Crafts (Oregon), and the Split Rock Arts Program (Minnesota). She is recipient of three visual arts fellowships from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Learn more about her at <https://susanbrandeis.wordpress.ncsu.edu>.



Susan Brandeis "Discovered Secrets" 2001, 50.25" x 72.5", Digitally printed, hand dyed, machine embroidered; cotton twill and sateen; silk organza; cotton threads.

COSTS

The retreat cost includes workshop and supply fees, 6 nights lodging (double), Sunday evening welcome dinner, breakfast daily, and lunch on workshop days (12 meals total). All other meals, travel, sightseeing, gratuities, etc., are at your own expense.

Fiber Forum Members	\$1060
Fiber Forum Friends	\$1110
Other EGA members	\$1135
Single supplement	\$ 440
Non-participating spouse/guest	\$ 740

The final balance less deposit is due February 1, 2020.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR

Fiber Forum Members	Immediately*
Fiber Forum Friends	August 1, 2019*
Other EGA members	October 1, 2019
Registration will close	November 30, 2019

* All Member registrations received by June 15 will be treated equally. If the workshop fills on or before that date, spaces will be allocated by lottery. The same is true of all Friends registrations received between August 1 and September 15. All other registrations will be processed in the order received.

To reserve your space, send a deposit of \$350 and the completed registration form to EGA Headquarters. Upon receipt of the form and deposit, a letter of confirmation will be sent by EGA. Registrants will be notified immediately if no spaces are available and will be placed on a waiting list. On or about February 1, registrants will receive additional retreat details, a list of participants, and a list of supplies to bring.

For further information, please contact Terri Zievers, Retreat Coordinator (713-962-1812)
Email: tzievers@yahoo.com

2020 Fiber Forum Retreat Registration

To register you may fax this form with credit card information to EGA headquarters at 502-584-7900 OR mail this form along with registration deposit of \$350 to: **Embroiderers' Guild of America, 1205 East Washington Street, Suite 117, Louisville, KY 40206.** Tele: 502-589-6956

Name _____ EGA# _____ Email address _____

Phone _____

Address _____

- \$1060 Fiber Forum Member (Double occupancy) Roommate: _____
 \$1110 Fiber Forum Friend (Double occupancy) Roommate: _____
 \$1135 Other EGA Member (Double occupancy) Roommate: _____
 \$ 440 Single supplement
 \$ 740 Non-participating spouse/guest (includes group meals)

Note: Registrants must be current EGA members in order to register for and attend Fiber Forum Retreats.

Deposit of \$350 payable with Registration. Balance due at EGA Headquarters by February 1, 2020

Method of Payment

- Check payable to: EGA Fiber Forum
 Visa MasterCard Amex

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Relationship _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone (or cell) _____

Class Cancellation Policy: At the discretion of Fiber Forum, cancellation may be made in the case of insufficient enrollment, illness or death of teacher or immediate family, acts of nature, or other emergency. In the event of class cancellation, student workshop registration fee reimbursement or credit will be issued. Travel cost is the sole responsibility of the student.

Student Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be made up to **January 1, 2020**, less a handling fee of \$50. After that date, refunds will be at the discretion of Fiber Forum.

Release of Liability: I release EGA and the teacher of this Fiber Forum workshop from liability for theft, property damage, or personal injury while I am participating in or attending any or all functions of the Fiber Forum Retreat. EGA and the Teacher are not responsible for actions and/or omissions made by any service supplier associated with this retreat. I have read and I understand the EGA cancellation policy and liability policy.

Date _____ Signature _____