**Caren Garfen**

**Curriculum Vitae**

“Caren Garfen’s practice is not solely about her virtuosity with stitch. She undertakes meticulous research and often seeks out everyday objects (dolls house furniture, capsules, key rings) to incorporate in her pieces, which when combined act as a powerful conduit for the message.” *Jo Hall - Editor Embroidery magazine, 2018*

**CREATIVE EMPLOYMENT**  Artist (2007 onwards)

 Self-employed Craftsperson (1992 - 2006)

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

**EXHIBITIONS**

**2019**

UDHR Quilt Project, Museum of Australian Democracy, Canberra, Australia (until June 2019)

Ctrl/Shift, 62 Group, National Centre for Craft & Design, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (1 Feb-21 Apr)

**2018**

UDHR Collaborative Quilt Project, Kings ARI Art Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (6-10 Mar)

Jane Austen Community Quilt Project, JA House Museum, Chawton, Hampshire (10 Mar onwards)

Eating Disorder International Conference - Beat, Imperial College, London (28-29 Mar)

Ctrl/Shift, 62 Group of Textile Artists, Mac Birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (21 Jul-9 Sep)

Jane Austen Community Quilt Project, Festival of Quilts, NEC, Birmingham, West Midlands (**8-13 Aug)**

The Mr X Stitch Guide to Cross Stitch*,* Standen House, East Grinstead, West Sussex (1 Sep-11 Nov)

What’s Going On Upstairs, Solo Gallery, Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace, London (11-14 Oct)Suffrage, Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre, Cwmbran, South Wales (**6 Oct-17 Nov)**

UDHR Quilt Project, Museum of Australian Democracy, Old Parliament House, Canberra, Australia (25 Oct ’18 - June 2019)

What’s Going On Upstairs, Knitting & Stitching Show, Simmonscourt, RDS, Dublin, Ireland (8-11 Nov)

What’s Going On Upstairs, Knitting & Stitching Show, Harrogate Convention Centre, Harrogate (22-25 Nov)

*“What’s Going On Upstairs* *might provoke feelings of discomfort and sadness in the viewer, but Garfen has never shied away from dealing with uncomfortable topics in her work. It is this aspect of her artistry that shows her ability to engage sensitively with difficult human experiences*.” *Jessica Edney, Selvedge blog post*

**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

*“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.*

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**

**2018**

Selvedge blog post, ‘What’s Going On Upstairs’, Jessica Edney (13 Aug)

**Axisweb**, Highlights of the Week, 'Heartfelt' (23-27 Jul)

**Text** Journal, Professional Development Award, 'What's Going On Upstairs' (Vol.45, p.57-58)

**British Patchwork & Quilting**, The Jane Austen Community Quilt, Lucy Bailey (Jan, Issue 288, p.40-43)

**Stories in Stitches: Reimagining Jane Austen's Quilt**, ed. L Bailey, E Betts & S Dell (Mar, p.39)

**Axisweb**, Category of the Week: Arts in Health, 'Room for Improvement' (5-12 Mar)

**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. Ruthin Craft Centre.Wellcome Collection.

**AWARDS/SELECTIONS**

**2017**

The Textile Society Professional Development Award - Selected

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