

PRESS RELEASE

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Canadian male stitcher wins London's Royal School of Needlework competition to "Design Your 21st Century Sampler" Competition

Canadian embroiderer, stitcher and member of Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery. (a chapter of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada), Mr Chris House has become the Joint Winner of London's Royal School of Needlework (RSN) recent Sampler competition, "Design Your 21st Century Sampler".

The Royal School of Needlework competition, which was run in conjunction with an exhibition on Samplers at the RSN's home of Hampton Court Palace, attracted a wide range of entries from across the world, submitting numerous interpretations of the competition brief. The final decision to award a Joint First Prize reflected the difficult decision the competition judges had.

Chris House from Ontario with his 'Whirlwind of Stitches' design, shares the First Prize with Mrs Patricia Huskins of the Netherland's 'Mother Board' design, both beating entries from the UK, Ireland, Latvia, Switzerland, Japan, India, USA and Australia.

Chris's 'Whirlwind of Stitches' design is a rework of the classic band sampler showing a wide range of techniques in stitches from small to large, radiating out from the centre.

Chris House says, 'I wanted to create a band sampler that explored not only various stitch types but also varied threads, sizes and embellishments. Adding small to large stitches using fine to large threads and small to large beads, I wanted to work out from the centre instead

of using traditional band sampler 'lines' and my spiral idea was born from this. I am very happy to be Joint- Winner of the Royal School of Needlework Sampler competition'

The judging panel comprised RSN embroidery tutors, staff and Trustees. Dr Susan Kay-Williams, RSN CEO comments, 'We are thrilled that an international entry is Joint Winner of our Sampler exhibition. Chris's design shows great understanding of the important contribution of Samplers in recording the history of numerous hand embroidery stitches and techniques. Historically men have always stitched, and in the 21st century, we are delighted to show that men still embroider. The RSN is the international centre of excellence for the art of hand embroidery and this is clearly shown in the designs of international winners of our Sampler competition'.

Chris House is currently embroidering his design for completion by January 2015 when the piece will go on public exhibition at RSN events and exhibitions around the country. The winners' completed pieces will be added to the RSN Collection.

Please see following images on pages 3 and 4.

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Royal School of Needlework (RSN)

The Royal School of Needlework was founded in 1872 and is the international centre of excellence for the art of hand embroidery. Based at Hampton Court Palace in south west London the RSN offers a range of embroidery courses from day classes for beginners, a Certificate and Diploma course, a Future Tutors programme and a Degree programme – a BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery for Fashion, Interiors, Textile Art. As a unique institution the RSN teaches regionally throughout the UK in Exeter, Bristol, Rugby, Durham and Glasgow and internationally in the USA (San Francisco and Williamsburg) and Japan (Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya). The RSN Embroidery Studio undertakes new commissions and conservation work. Clients have included fashion designers, Oscar nominees, cathedrals, private individuals and the Royal Family.

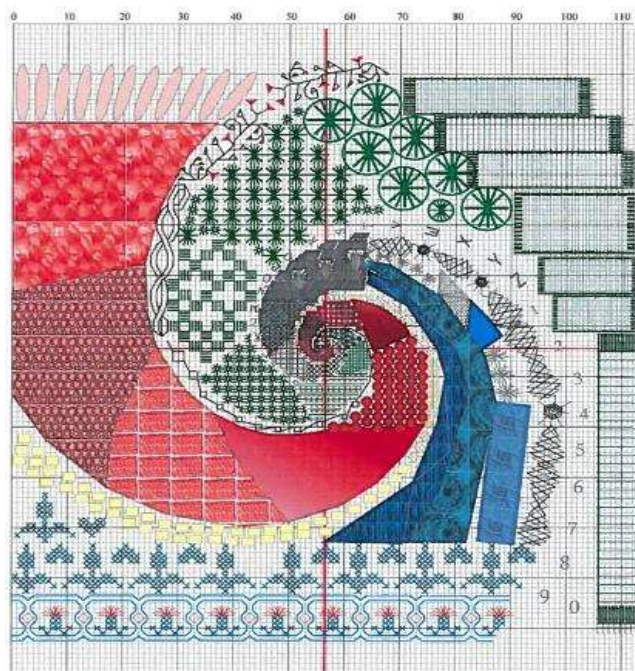
www.royal-needlework.org.uk

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Chris House's charted 'Whirlwind of Stitches' design- work in progress





Chris House working his 'Whirlwind of Stitches' design