

Camden Head Pilot Station – Artist in Residence 2011 – Gillian Hand

Years of traversing the many and varied landscapes of textiles led Gillian Hand into her current incarnation as a book artist and print-maker. For many years Gillian focussed on traditional approaches such as embroidery, weaving, knitting and quilt-making, before turning her craft to the turning pages of books and the multi-dimensional promise of prints.

Living and working in the Blue Mountains gives Gillian a beautiful platform from which to create, with the vibrancy of the bushland all around her informing her work at a fundamental level. Not only does she draw from the *“colour, texture, pattern, shapes and lines”* of the natural world, but she also finds inspiration in everyday objects.

Having always developed her own contemporary designs, the Blue Mountains based artist combines a range of approaches to create prints that are often multi-layered, incorporating elements such as linocuts, woodblocks, collographic plates, monoprinting and dry point etching. The results of these layering techniques may have a delicate stained appearance or a richly textured background with strongly embedded imagery.

Gillian keeps environmental concerns uppermost in her work, with a creative mantra of *“Reuse, recycle, remake, reinvent”*, explaining, *“These things all matter to me, as well as developing non-toxic working methods that don’t wreck the environment or my health!”*

Over the years Gillian has *“printed, dyed, stencilled, embroidered, marbled, painted, stamped, stitched and whatever else is possible to do to fabric to achieve marks, images, texture and shape.”* She even created her own unique fabric called *faux-felt* through experimentation with the natural fibres of wool, mohair and silk. Gillian has been awarded many prizes in Australia and overseas for her textile work and has exhibited widely.

More recently Gillian completed a Fine Arts Degree at the University of Western Sydney, and was a recipient of the Dean’s Medal. During the process, she turned a creative corner, shifting away from textiles and into working with the fibres of paper as a book artist. The process, she says, utilises many of the same surface development techniques, with stitching, folding and other construction techniques being used in book arts.

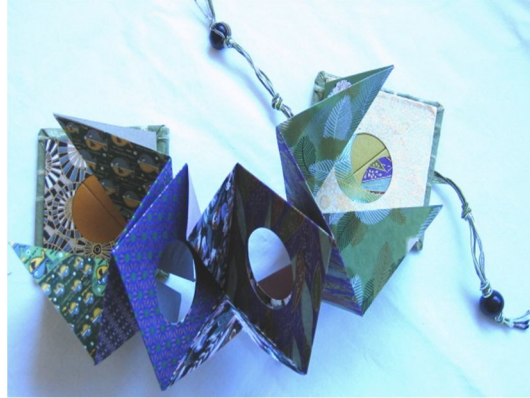
For **Gillian Hand**, creativity signals itself as a driving force, *“you have to keep doing it no matter what else is going on in your life. It sustains, nurtures, stimulates and satisfies my soul.”*

Gillian is offering 4 sequential workshops on Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th of May and 3 self contained workshops on 7th, 14th and 21st of May

SMALL HANDMADE BOOKS : A 4 week course with Gillian Hand



Flag book 'Textiles'



Concertina book 'Tunnels'

Week One – Flag books

These are constructed with cardstock and postcards for 'pages'. There are many variations on this design and participants will see different examples of how to apply the basic method learned on the day.

Week Two – Concertina books

These are constructed from origami paper squares with end covers using bookboard and handmade paper coverings. Many different ways of applying this method once the basic design is achieved.

Week Three – Stitched books

Participants will make a 6 signature pamphlet stitched book with a wrap-around cover made from handmade paper or other paper of their choice.

Week Four – Map-style book

These are constructed from a large piece of paper that has been painted, printed, collaged or written on, then cut to provide a map-style folding into book pages. The whole is held by bookboard covered with handmade or other types of paper.



Pamphlet-stitched book 'Underwater' Map Book 'Seasons'

Gillian is offering 4 sequential workshops on Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th of May. Each day will commence at 9.30 am and conclude at 12.30. All materials and morning tea will be supplied. The all inclusive cost will be \$140.

Gillian is also offering 3 self contained workshops on Saturdays 7th, 14th and 21st of May
Each workshop will commence at 10am and conclude at 4pm. The cost of \$65 and will include all of the materials required to make the books and morning tea. Participants may elect to attend one or all three workshops.

Bookings are essential as each class is limited to 12 participants. Contact the Camden Haven Community College on 65596699.