

# GILL DAVIES

1939 –

Contribution to 50plusArtSpace in August, 2020

## TEXTILE ART

In an earlier life, I taught Advanced Level History to adults and sixth formers at the local Sixth Form College (High School in England) in my home town of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England. When I retired I took up textile art through attending the workshops of some inspiring teachers. I also drew on the experiences of my teenage years: I studied Advanced Level Art at school and designed and made my own clothes at home.

In my approach to my art work I combine of a love of colour with a passion for design. My particular interest is designing pictorial quilts, many inspired by the local landscape. I also enjoy experimenting and often let the fabrics I have chosen lead me into new areas.

I hope the images that follow illustrate these aspects of my work. The first six show examples of the local landscape. Then there are two examples of experimentation using a Bargello piecing technique suggested by quilt artist, Eleanor Burns, to create background for water themed pieces.



### **Trellis**

A mixed media piece: painted background with hand and machine stitch embroidery. This is a view of my garden in summer when the roses are in full bloom.



### **A view of Henley on Thames**

This is an impression in fabric and stitch of the heart of the town which has been my home for 55 years. Henley is known for its annual rowing regatta which attracts entries worldwide. It is always good to come back to.





**Bluebells at  
Pissen Wood**

A wall hanging constructed from my husband's old silk shirts! It is an impression of spring in our local woods, with a detail of fresh young beech leaves against a background of bluebells. It was made for an exhibition of art work to promote the Chilterns Woodland Project in 2008.



### **Birchwoods Blue**

Another piece constructed from my husband's old silk shirts. The silk helps to give a surface glow. It was inspired by the spring bluebells in our local woodland, giving the long view.





### **Birchwoods Gold**

A companion piece to 'Birchwoods Blue', using the same techniques and fabrics but with the rich colours of autumn replacing the blues and greens of spring.



### **A view of the Chilterns for Lynnette**

Lynnette has been a friend for about twenty years. When she retired, her friends and work colleagues asked what she would like as a retirement present. She asked if I would make a wall hanging showing a view of the Chiltern Hills which surround the village where she lives. We looked at various views together and this was the finished result. It hangs on a wall in her living room and always gives me satisfaction when I see it.





### **Hidden Depths**

I wanted to give the impression of the still depths of the ocean contrast to the movement of the fish when designing this quilt. It is lightly quilted by machine.





### **Water Lilies**

This design was heavily quilted to give the impression of fast flowing water. It was selected for the 2013 exhibition, 'Water, Water', organised by the Contemporary Quilt Group of the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles.