

Embroidery Studio

RSN
ROYAL SCHOOL
OF NEEDLEWORK

Founded 1872

*New Commissions,
Conservation
& Restoration*



The International Centre of Excellence
for the Art of Hand Embroidery

RSN Embroidery Studio

The Royal School of Needlework (RSN) is the international centre of excellence for the art of hand embroidery. Founded in 1872, it is steeped in history with unrivalled expertise in this traditional craft.

In addition to teaching hand embroidery to the highest standard, we offer bespoke embroidery services in our Studio based at Hampton Court Palace. Our renowned Embroidery Studio has customers from all over the world, from members of the Royal Family, places of worship and livery companies to leading fashion and interior design houses and private individuals. We create beautiful bespoke commissions for the future as well as bring historical textiles back to life by conserving or restoring them.

From large commissions, such as hand embroidering bespoke lace on to the iconic wedding dress of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge to smaller requests to restore a precious wedding veil that has become a family heirloom, our highly trained, expert stitchers use the finest hand embroidery techniques for each and every customer.



Above: Bespoke brooch

Left: Epic 6m x 4m embroidery for TV Show, Game of Thrones

Inset: Game of Thrones detail



“Having presented the Royal School of Needlework with something of a challenge to create a suite of vestments to mark the Millennium of Buckfast Abbey, it was an enlightening experience to be able to work with a team whose skills are of such a high order of excellence.”

Robin Barlow, Fine Art Consultant for Buckfast Abbey

New Commissions

The RSN Studio creates unique pieces that stand out from the crowd. These include fashion garments, grand furnishings, vestments and altar frontals and pieces for special occasions. Discuss your vision with our expert team and we will bring your idea to life through innovative design and embroidery.

Our larger projects have included a series of vestments for Buckfast Abbey; a unique red carpet dress worn at the Oscars and a collaboration with Neo POP artist Philip Colbert. On a smaller scale, we have created a series of unique gifts, including bespoke cufflinks, a football badge and a brooch. Our skilled stitchers can quite literally turn their hand to any creation big or small, traditional or contemporary.



“I wanted to make a connection between thought provoking, contemporary imagery and historic hand embroidery techniques and craft traditions. I feel it’s the perfect marriage for a work of ART, and who better to collaborate with than the Royal School of Needlework.”

Philip Colbert, Artist



■ **Personalised embroidery** – We can monogram or add motifs, dates, or even a personal message to clothing and interiors to create that extra special gift.

■ **Special Canvas Painting** – If you are a keen needleworker and want to make something unique we can hand paint a canvas for you, based on a personal design or inspired by the RSN's extensive Design Archive.

Conservation & Restoration

Through our conservation and restoration services we can help you look after your fragile, treasured textiles by preventing further damage and breathing new life into a piece.

Conservation may include gentle surface cleaning, surface couching and supporting weak areas. We can also protect very fragile areas by covering them with conservation net discreetly stitched. In line with current practice, all our conservation work is reversible.

For restorations, we can match original thread colours and replace missing stitches, or repair holes in the ground fabric. The RSN Studio specialises in canvas re-weaving to strengthen canvas work, such as cherished furnishings, so that they give you many more years of pleasure and continue to be passed onto the next generation.

"I want to thank you all at the RSN for so beautifully restoring my family sampler."

Mrs Margaret Francis



- **Transfer of Embroidery** – When the embroidery on a piece still looks in good condition but the background fabric is worn and cracking we can transfer old embroideries onto new background fabrics. We specialise in transferring ecclesiastical embroidery on vestments and altar frontals, as well as on church, livery, masonic and organisation banners, to give them a new lease of life.
- **Finishing Services** – We offer a finishing service which includes: mounting on to museum grade acid-free card ready for framing; lining your textile ready for hanging; completing your unfinished embroidery and making it up into a finished piece.



Additional Services

Christening Robes & Veils

Embroidery on christening robes is a wonderful tradition to start or continue down through one's family; we can embellish and monogram, clean and repair them, ready for the next generation to wear. For example, we can monogram the name of every child who wears it, so it becomes a very special historical family record. We can also undertake cleaning and repair of christening robes and supply conservation boxes in order to keep them safely stored and ready for further use.

We clean and repair wedding veils of any size as well as create special items such as embellished garments and ring cushions.



Cleaning & Packing Services

Fabrics which have not been cleaned are prone to decay from mounting or storage materials such as card, wood and non-acid-free tissue paper which can lead to irreversible damage and a short life-span of the piece.

The Studio can remount work and provide acid-free and conservation grade storage solutions.



Our History

The Royal School of Needlework has an exceptionally rich history. Here is a selection of just some of the many memorable projects showcasing our Embroidery Studio's unparalleled experience in the art of hand embroidery.



Working on The Queen's Coronation Robe



RSN Workroom c.1903

- Made Coronation regalia for Edward VII, King George V, King George VI and Her Majesty The Queen
- Designed stitchable badges for the Allied regiments during the Second World War
- Created the Overlord Embroidery: 34 panels depicting the events of D Day
- Embroidered new stage curtains for the Royal Opera House in London
- Created the balcony hanging at Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee
- Embroidered Sir Paul McCartney's Ecce Cor Meum album cover
- Conserved the Te Deum Altar Frontal and Canon Carpenter's Cope for Salisbury Cathedral
- Worked for Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen on HRH The Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress
- Embroidered the Red Carpet Green Dress worn by actress Naomie Harris at the 2013 Oscars
- Embroidered a crest for Savoir Beds bespoke 'Royal Bed'
- Collaborated on an epic 6m x 4m embroidery for one of the world's biggest TV shows, *Game of Thrones*



Royal Opera House curtains



Work in progress of 'Red Carpet Green Dress' worn to the Oscars



How to contact us

Whatever your project, our expert stitchers will be able to help.

Contact us by email: studio@royal-needlework.org.uk
or call on: **+44 (0)20 3166 6940**

If you can email photos initially that would be best, then we can provide you with an estimated cost based on the design and embroidery hours we anticipate. Then, once we see the actual piece (or final artwork), we can produce a formal estimate.

We are always happy to discuss your budget and the choice of techniques to help you realise your ideas. We would ask for an early indication of your timescale, especially if your piece is for a special event.

All visits to our RSN Studio are **by appointment only**.

For more information about the RSN Embroidery Studio,
visit **www.royal-needlework.org.uk**

Royal School of Needlework
Apartment 12a
Hampton Court Palace
Surrey KT8 9AU, UK

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6932 (general enquiries)

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