



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF NEEDLEARTS 2022 ASSEMBLY

TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

March 18 – 22, 2022
Somerset Inn, Troy, MI

Do Andrew

Do is an artist and designer, teacher, lecturer, judge, and author who creates work in a variety of media in the needle art and fine art disciplines. She has NAN certification as both a Master Teacher and Master Judge, and completed the Honors Level. Do was the Director of Judges' Certification for six years and currently is the Monitor for the Master Judging program. She holds a BFA degree from Syracuse University and an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. Dolores is a retired Associate Professor of Art at Essex Community College in Baltimore County MD. She has written and illustrated three books on textile subjects and is represented by several galleries. Her artwork has been accepted in juried exhibitions throughout the U.S. www.DoloresAndrewDesigns.com

Kathy Andrews

With her enthusiasm for stitch and encouraging classroom atmosphere, she is a sought after teacher of embroidery. Kathy has taught and lectured for EGA chapters in the USA, a mini-class at EGA National and globally in her many online courses. She received her Certificate of Technical Hand Embroidery with Merit from the Royal School of Needlework and her City and Guilds Certificate in Design and Stitched Textiles. Kathy is a member of the Cedar Valley Chapter of the EGA and the EGA Fiber Forum. She and her husband are the third generation to live in the family home in rural Iowa. www.theunbrokenthread.com

Kurdy Biggs

Kurdy is a counted canvas designer, teacher, and owner of Threedles Needleart Designs. Kurdy holds a Level II Teaching Certificate from NAN. Her geometric designs have won numerous awards from ANG, NAN, EGA, TNNA and Woodlawn. She has been published in *Needlepointers*, *Needlepoint Now*, and *Cross Stitch and Needlework*. Kurdy has taught for national ANG, EGA and NAN seminars and in retail shops. www.threedles.com

Dawn Donnelly

Dawn Donnelly is a mixed-media artist who enjoys incorporating other forms of art within needlepoint. She holds Level II teacher certification in canvas from NAN and teaches nationally and locally for NAN, ANG, and EGA. Dawn has been recognized in numerous exhibits for the excellence of by work. She spends her time volunteering as membership chair, registrar, and dean of faculty for NAN and president for ANG's Magnificent Obsession Chapter. Several of her articles have been published in *Needlepoint Now* and *Needlepointers*. www.threadupdd.com

Toni Gerdes

Toni holds Level II Teachers' certification from NAN specializing in canvas embroidery. She currently serves on the Board of NAN as the Director of Education after serving 5 years as Assistant Director of Teachers' Certification. Toni has also served on the Board of Directors for several ANG chapters as Program Chair & President. She is a past President of NETA and has received numerous awards for her designs. Toni has taught for NAN, EGA, and ANG, as well as guilds & shops. She has been published in *Needlepointers*, *Needlepoint Now*, and in *Needle Arts* as the Artist Across America. She enjoys all types of stitching and especially sharing her knowledge with others. Toni currently resides in Colorado. www.tonigerdes.com

Diane Herrmann

Diane holds Level II Teacher Certification in canvas embroidery from NAN, where she is currently Assistant Director of Teacher Education. She has taught for local and regional guilds and chapters, and has received several prestigious awards and honors for her work. Diane often uses mathematical concepts as inspiration for her designs and presentations. She is a contributing author of *Crafting by Concepts: Fiber Arts and Mathematics*. Diane lives in Chicago. www.dianeherrmann.com

Deborah Mitek

Deborah is a needlework designer and teacher specializing in silk ribbon embroidery and surface stitching on both fabric and canvas. As a member of EAC, NAN, ANG and EGA for over 38 years, she teaches at the national, regional, and local levels. Her work has been featured in both *Needle Arts* and *Needle Pointers* magazines. Currently, she is the owner of Island Stitchery & Studio, a retail needlework shop. She can be reached at ineedlework@sbcglobal.net.

Wendy Moore

I try to bring both my MFA degree in Costume Design and fourteen years of teaching to my needlework design and teaching, with a great interest in color theory and computer work. I am fascinated by mathematical and perceptual puzzles which come out in my designs. I teach my designs locally and have completed NAN Teacher Certification in canvas embroidery. In addition to NAN & EGA, I am also a member of ANG Great Lakes Stitchers Chapter and have held many offices for Monguagon EGA chapter and Great Lakes Region EGA.

Shay Pendray

Shay is an internationally known teacher (certified by EGA) in many venues of needleart but is most well known for her study of Japanese Embroidery. She has studied Japanese Embroidery for the last 30 years (with 18 trips to Japan) and was the driving force in bringing Japanese Embroidery to the United States. Shay has many students in this technique from around the world. She was the host of a popular PBS show on needlework, and has taught at many national seminars for EGA, ANG, NAN, and Callaway Gardens as well as regional seminars and many guilds across the US. Shay was the recipient of NAN's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award and ANG's Literary Award, and has been recognized as DMC Teacher of the Year.

Jennifer Riefenberg

Jennifer is an accomplished needleartist, meshing her love of the arts into new and varied mediums. She loves teaching others, both the skills and the pure love and joys of art and creativity. Jennifer is a NAN-Certified Teacher/Designer and is also a certified Judge through NAN. Jennifer has taught at national seminars for ANG and NAN. Jennifer has won numerous awards for her needleart and other artwork. www.artofsunshine.com

Kim Sanders

Kim is an EGA-certified teacher in Crewel and Surface Embroidery and a Master Craftsman in Surface Embroidery and in Smocking. She earned a degree in Textiles from the University of Tennessee. She has taught at shops, chapters, and EGA national and regional seminars, and has authored EGA correspondence courses. Her articles and designs have appeared in *Inspirations*, *Needle Arts*, *Australian Smocking and Embroidery*, and *The Smocking Arts*. She filmed four embroidery focused segments of the PBS program, *Creative Living with Sheryl Borden*.

“Lagniappe means a little something extra. It’s the 13th doughnut in a bakers’ dozen. When I teach, I love to add lagniappe – sometimes it’s history of the technique, fiber information or how to create a new design in the class technique. I feel most successful as a teacher when a student can apply what they have learned in class to future embroideries and perhaps be inspired to create their own design.”

Heather Shulick

Heather is a mixed media and fiber artist who has recently completed the second year of NAN's teacher certification program. She is a lifetime member of NAN as well as a member of EGA and ANG. Heather graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and from West Virginia University with a Master of Integrated Marketing Communications. When she is not tromping around the sheep barns of the Midwest's sheep and fiber festivals, you can find her working in her spare time as a human resources executive. Heather lives in Chicago with her husband Brad and her dog Maisy.

Gail Sirna

Gail received her teacher certification in 1982 and judge certification in 1990 from NAN. She is also certified as a teacher by ANG at the Fellow Level and has completed the Certified Graduate Teacher Program through EGA. In addition, Gail has completed Honors, Teacher cum Laude, and Master Teacher certification through NAN. She is the former Director of Education for NAN, was NAN Treasurer for 13 years, and has served NAN in numerous capacities. She is also a past EGA Director for the Great Lakes Region. Gail has taught extensively in the US and Canada for more than 40 years and her work has won many ribbons in exhibits throughout the country. She is the author of *In Praise of the Needlewoman*. www.gailsirna.com

Laura Smith

Laura is an embroidery innovator, nationally known designer, and teacher with over 50 years of embroidery experience. Her work has been shown all over the US. She holds the Master Craftsman designation in Color from EGA, and chaired the Master Craftsman in Color Program 2006 - 2018. She chaired the EGA Fiber Forum from 2011 through 2015 and is the former director of an arts center. Her education in chemistry has helped her understand mixed media that are compatible with textiles. www.Stitch4Fun.com

Debbie Stiehler

Debbie is an international needleart designer, teacher, and lecturer. She has taught at many seminars and guilds, and privately in the US and Canada. Debbie holds Level II teacher certification from NAN and is an EGA Master Craftsman in canvas embroidery. She served on the NAN Board for 6 years as Assistant Director of Teachers' Certification and 4 years as Director of Education. Debbie currently resides in South Carolina.

Vicky Witterschein

Vicky has been stitching since she was a young girl, whether it was counted work, surface embroidery, quilting or just general sewing. She has only started designing in the last three years after being employed at Edwardian Needle. Currently, Vicky is finishing up Level II of NAN Teaching Certification. Vicky was previously an elementary school teacher and has found a perfect combination in teaching and designing embroidery!