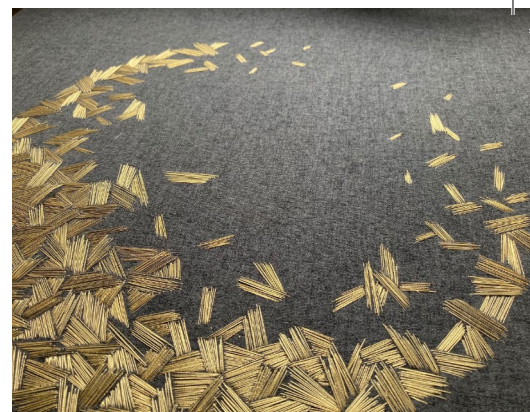




GETTING CREATIVE



*Shrewsbury artist **Hannah Day** is in charge spotting creative talent for **My Shrewsbury!** Here she talks about the importance of setting out your own style, and introduces us to **Hanny Newton**.*

At the start of 2021 I knew I wanted to spend time refining my style.

The aim was to make my work less of a jumble of ideas and more a set of coherent visual statements.

If you came across something I had designed, I wanted you to recognize it as mine. We all have a style, and our style becomes more confident as we make, moving us into new places and directions.

It is not static but it should have hallmarks.

I have certain colour palettes that I return to, the font above is my own and can be seen across a number of my pieces.

My work starts out as paper cut work, whether it is a full collaged piece or is translated onto the computer and digitally finished.

There is subject matter too, with flowers, doves, hands and rainbows popping up all over my work.

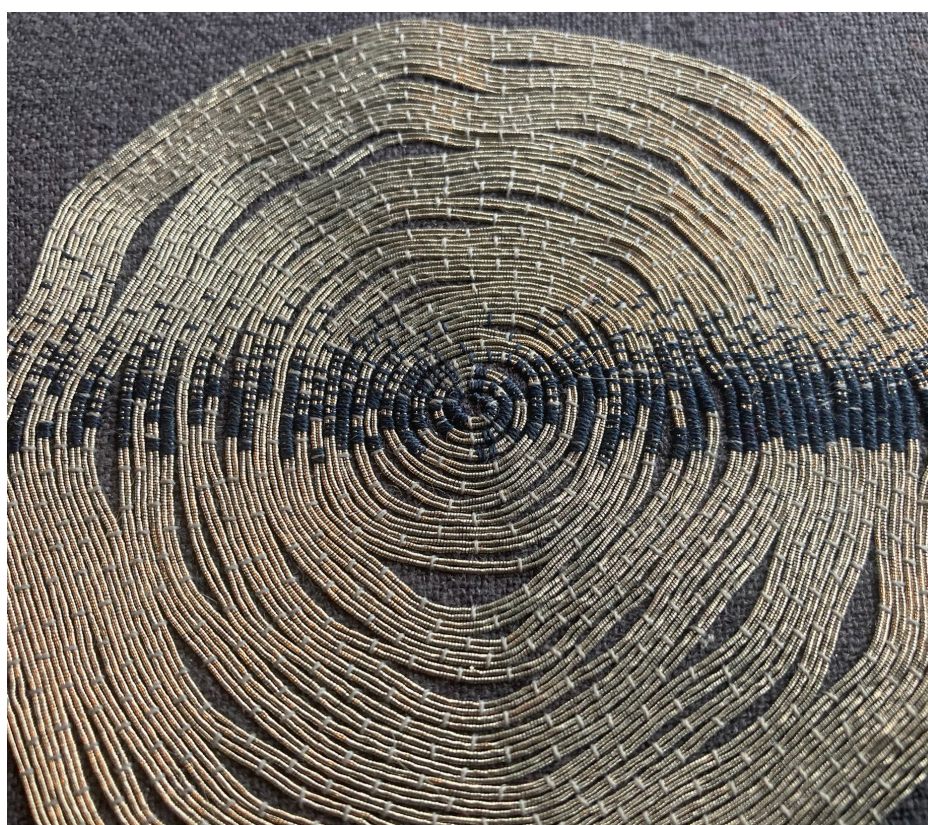
To create a style – sometimes called a visual voice – you need to keep on making and reviewing, and quite naturally you will find elements you return to. Are your colours bold or muted, your lines bold or faint, continuous or feathered, do you prefer heavy detail or areas left blank?

Be confident in your own ideas and individuality. Spend 15 uninterrupted minutes jotting down everything that you love. Don't stop, keep going until you have gone to the corners of your imagination and picked out the most strange and wonderful elements that make you you.

These should be the things your work is about.

If there are artists whose work inspires you, don't be afraid to take elements from them into your own. As we make, we filter our influences turning them into something that becomes ours.

And most of all, find comfort in the moments when things go wrong. Do not worry if the result is not what you wanted, refinement and skill takes time.



HANNAH LOVES...



Someone whose style is instantly recognisable is that of **Hanny Newton**, an embroiderer from the town who has managed to take this ancient craft and create pieces that have effortless contemporary confidence and beauty.

Hallmarks of her style are her use of gold, silver and copper thread, couched onto muted fabrics, a stitching process where a second thread wraps over the main to fix it to the base.

Despite the use of metal and grays, the finished works often have a sense of flow and a form, which is more like a river or plant than anything cold or static.

The results are meditative, calming and hypnotic, with the changing light bouncing

off the threads as days pass into night.

She is also an accomplished workshop leader, offering tutoring both via online workshops and at galleries from our own SM&AG to The British Museum and as far away as the Australian Design Centre, Sydney.

These sessions take you through the basics of gold work and allow you to build on embroidery skills or learn a new skill.

● **Hannah lives and works in Shrewsbury and can be found on Instagram, Facebook, Etsy and Not on the High Street.**

Just search for Hannah Day UK.

● **Hanny Newton can be found on Instagram @hannynewton and via her website hannynewton.co.uk**