

As judges, we were very gratified with the quality of the entries in this year's *The Exemplary*. The embroidery itself was of uniform excellence throughout, and there were numerous innovative and exciting new designs. The entries spanned the world of needleart, with canvas pieces predominating, but extending to counted thread pieces both traditional and experimental, and surface embroidery ranging from classic to modernistic. The Japanese embroidery exemplified excellent work through a variety of traditional subjects. In addition, the mixed media category offered interesting, compelling, and amazingly varied works of art.

Because of the excellent quality of the embroidery, our work as judges was a challenge. Each category contained many beautiful and fascinating pieces, all worthy of recognition. We agonized over our choices in awarding the ribbons. The choice for Best of Show was especially daunting, as there were several pieces in contention. All were exquisitely stitched, and it was difficult to settle on just one. The degree of difficulty exhibited in the winning piece is what tipped the decision in its favor.

Thank you to all who shared your lovely work with NAN.

Jane Farber Nanette Mathe Gail Sirna