

Artisan Embroidery: Izziyana Suhaimi

Description

Combining a variety of mediums within a work is definitely an artistic trend of late, but none is quite as striking as Singapore-based Izziyana Suhaimiâ??s embroidered illustrations and paintings. Part whimsical, part fine-art, each piece conveys a very different set of emotions, showing off her incredible multi-disciplinary skills. She documents her different projects and the journey of her work on her blog, as well as her various exhibitions which sheâ??s held in Singapore, Taiwan, the Philippines and Japan. Her techniques are very traditional and drawn from the past, but her work is undeniably modern, connecting history with the present.



From â??The looms in our bonesâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Izziyanaâ??s beautiful pieces are a layering of illustration, watercolor painting and stitching where grey-scale pencil meets bold thread and soft painted strokes. Each series is slightly different â?? in â??Ë?The looms in our bonesâ?? the â??Å?strange and awkward but attractiveâ?•Â• girls, drawn in pencil are adorned with bright, embroidered geometric and floral patterns to form part of the background texture like a tapestry. â??Ë?Friends to keep you warmâ?? has girls in knitted hats, headscarves, jumpers and bows over pencil sketches and watercolor expressions; each layer adds extra texture and brings the piece to life, blending a mixture of artistic styles.





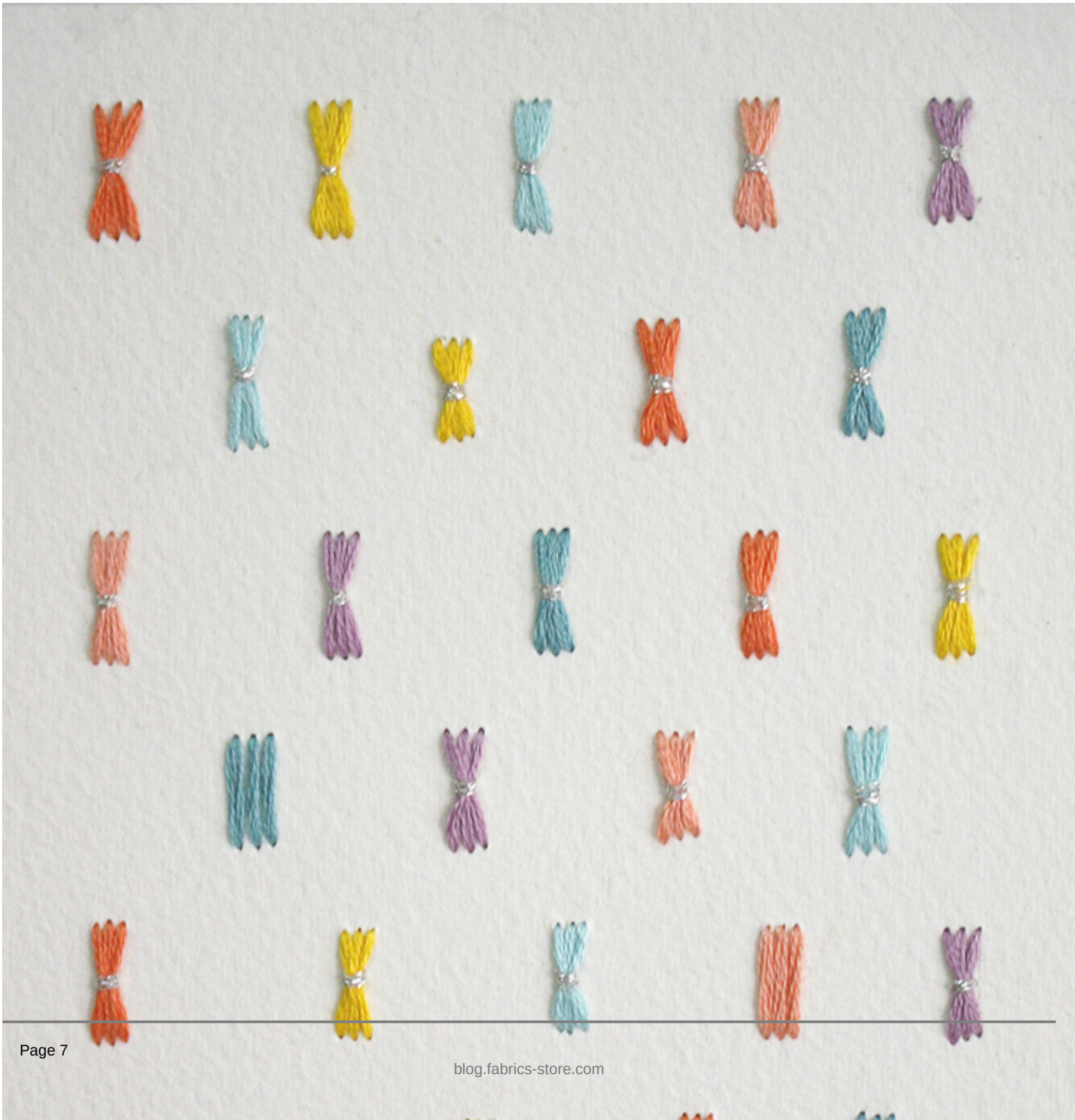
From â??Friends to keep you warmâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Although she achieved a fine arts degree in photography, Izziyana doesnâ??t have any formal training in illustration or embroidery and feels that it is not necessary to express oneself as an artist. She stumbled upon her hybrid technique while doing a school project on medical illustrations of the art (from Henry Grayâ??s â??Å?Grayâ??s Anatomyâ?•Â•). She experiment with embroidery and enjoyed it so much that she began incorporating the craft into more and more of her work. The result is the lovely work and collaborations we see today as she continues to blur the boundaries of different mediums.



From â??Friends to keep you warmâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Izziyana describes herself as â??Å?endlessly curiousâ?•Â• and she is interested in â??Å?collapsing the boundaries between traditional and popular cultures and exploring the links that exist between these twoâ?•Â•. For Izzi, the beauty of art is in its variety and diversity and embroidery itself is so basic, yet so versatile. As a craft it is inherently functional, but as Izziyana says â??Å?it has the ability to convey emotions â?? and most people seem to be able to connect to this mediumâ?•Â•.





The checkerboard stitch. Slipping between invisible cracks, we are like air.



The Cretan stitch. Precariously balanced betweenthe shape of things past ahd the shape of things to come, you are.

From â??Stitch Studiesâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Born in Singapore, Izziyana loved to draw as a child and still often starts her work with an image in her head, which she sketches. She is attracted to â??Å?the evidence of the hand and its time-consuming aspectâ?•Â• â?? embroidery is a quiet and still act and the final piece is â??Å?a physical manifestation of timeâ?•Â•.â?? Izziyana also enjoys the duality of embroidery and its movements of stabbing, cutting, covering, building, repairing and taking apart. In her art, â??Å?every stitch seems to unfold a story and withhold it at the same timeâ?•Â•.

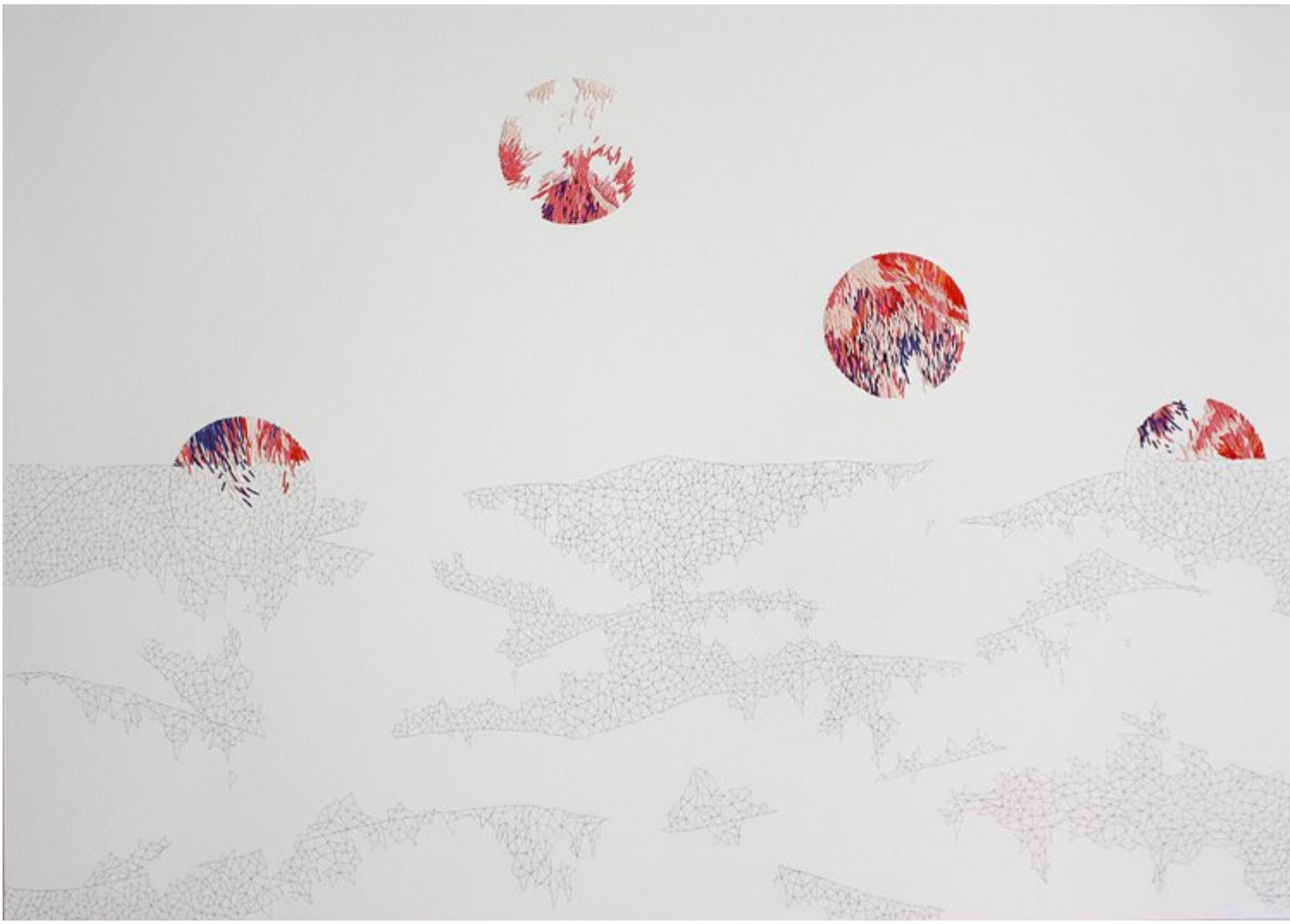


Detail from â??Friends to keep you warmâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

In her â??Ë?Friends to keep you warm seriesâ?•Â•, the story is of Izziyanaâ??s inspiration from the fashion world â?? dying for the clothes from

the likes of Kenzo, Peter Jensen, Marc Jacobs and Tavi she stitched them on to her drawings and watercolor paintings instead; the â??Ë?friendsâ?? in the art refer to both the clothes and the people. â??Ë?Lets talk about everythingâ?? was more about other peopleâ??s stories â?? a collection of memories sprung from phrases that hold emotional meaning to four individuals and stitched on to a variety of different canvases.

In 2012 Izziyana was featured in Nylon Singapore, the second ever issue of the magazine. Part of the feature was to create an interpretation of the cover, which she did in full embroidery as it was something she had always wanted to do. Her other dream collaborations include working her favourite musicians â?? Metric, The National and Mew to name a few as well as aspirations to work with Islamic Arts and Arabic calligraphy, and large-scale projects with other artists.



From â??The sun in your eyesâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Inspiration for Izzi comes from everywhere â?? she believes that every single thing we come across somehow gets translated into the work we create, subconsciously or not; she is a big fan of words, â??Å?song lyrics, poetry, books, signageâ?•Â•. Sheâ??s also influenced by current trends and enjoys what young people are gravitated towards and concerned about â?? contemporary culture. From there she relates it back history and traditional culture and mixes all eras in her work â??Å?a sum of all history and even the futureâ?•Â•. It is always in flux, so for her is always a very rich source of inspiration.



From â??Making working timeâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Izziyana says she has been more attracted to the abstract lately, and feels as though she is getting closer to finding what her work is all about. Itâ??s a â??Å?constant searchâ?•Â• and journey â?? she might find another medium or stick with embroidery for a really long time. Lately she finds herself trying to pin down one idea or one thing that she wants to express and figure out how to say it in a visual form. Both form of expression and the idea behind the work are of equal importance to Izzi â??Å?itâ??s hard to like work thatâ??s not visually intriguing and itâ??s hard to appreciate work that looks good but is kind of boringâ?•Â•.



From â??The looms in our bonesâ??. Photo: Izziyana Suhaimi

Like many of the other embroiderers weâ??ve featured in this series, Izzyâ??s attraction to the slow process of embroidery and physical manifestation of creativity contrasts the mass-produced culture of today and its focus on instant gratification. Her artistic journey is only beginning and it will be wonderful to see where she takes this focus next in her work â?? itâ??s a quality that the rest of our artisan embroiderers share and one that we should continue to value and celebrate.

CATEGORY

1. EMBROIDERY

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1. art
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5. izziyana suhaimi
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