

## *What is Embroidery?*

(5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

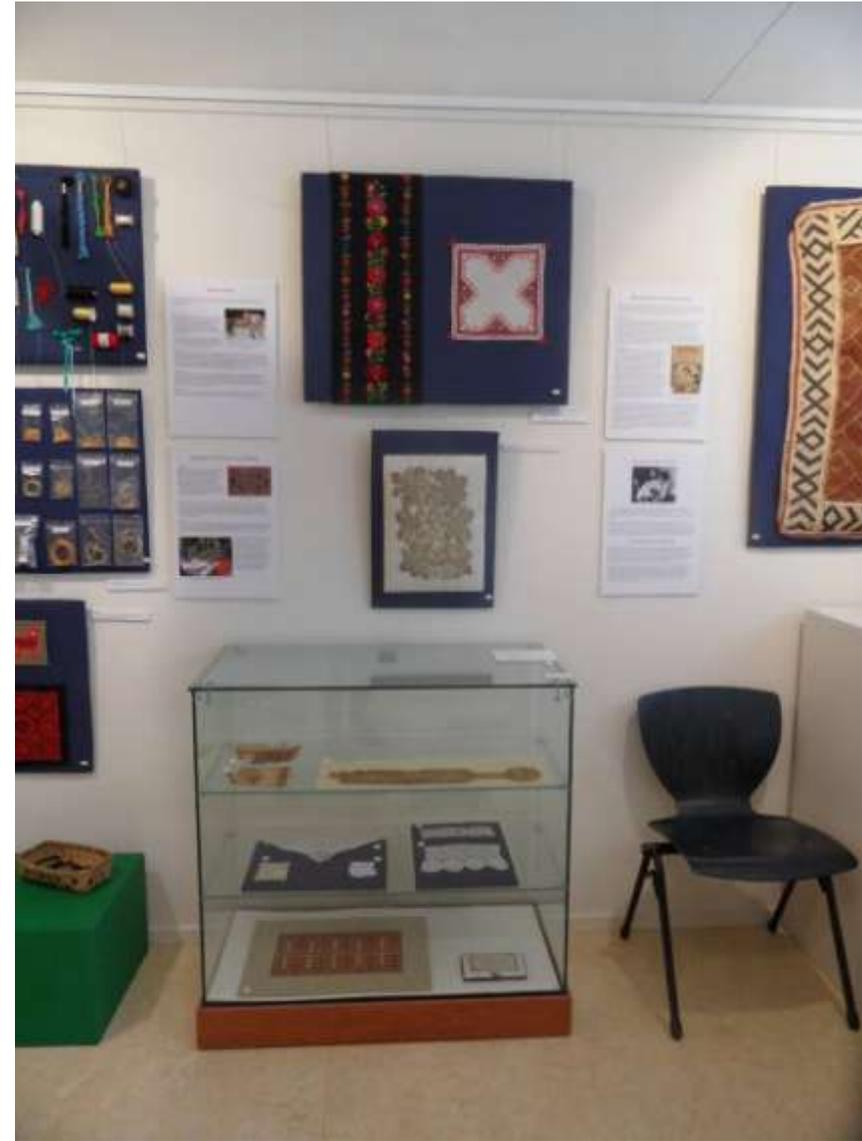
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September saw the opening of the TRC's next exhibition entitled *What is Embroidery?* The term embroidery is being used in its broadest 'umbrella' sense. The exhibition includes (among others) historical and modern examples of free style and counted thread forms, as well as appliqué, couching, drawn and pulled thread work, patchwork, and smocking.

The first part of the exhibition is dedicated to technical details such as equipment, thread, ground cloths, and means of transferring a design. The second section is stunning and includes examples of embroidery from the TRC's extensive collection. A wide range of forms and uses are on display that come from many regions around the world. Truly a source of information and inspiration! The third section is about a young lady called Henriëtte Braunstahl from Den Haag (1885-1983), who was presented in 1904 with a diploma from the *Industrieschool voor Meisjes* ('s-Gravenhage) as a handwork teacher. The TRC was given her collection of exercise books, water colour albums, photographs, as well as samples of her work, by Henriëtte Braunstahl's family. The TRC embroidery exhibition is used to show the embroidery skills of a girl from over 100 years ago and to illustrate the teaching methods of the time.

*If you don't know what all these embroidery terms, such as appliqué, couching, drawn and pulled thread work, patchwork, quilting and smocking, mean exactly, then come and have a look. If you do, then there will be many items on display that will surely inspire you to explore further the amazing world of embroidery!*

This exhibition is supported by the *Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Zuid-Holland* and the *Van der Mandele Stichting*. We would like to say many thanks to both of these organisations for their continuing support of the TRC and its work.

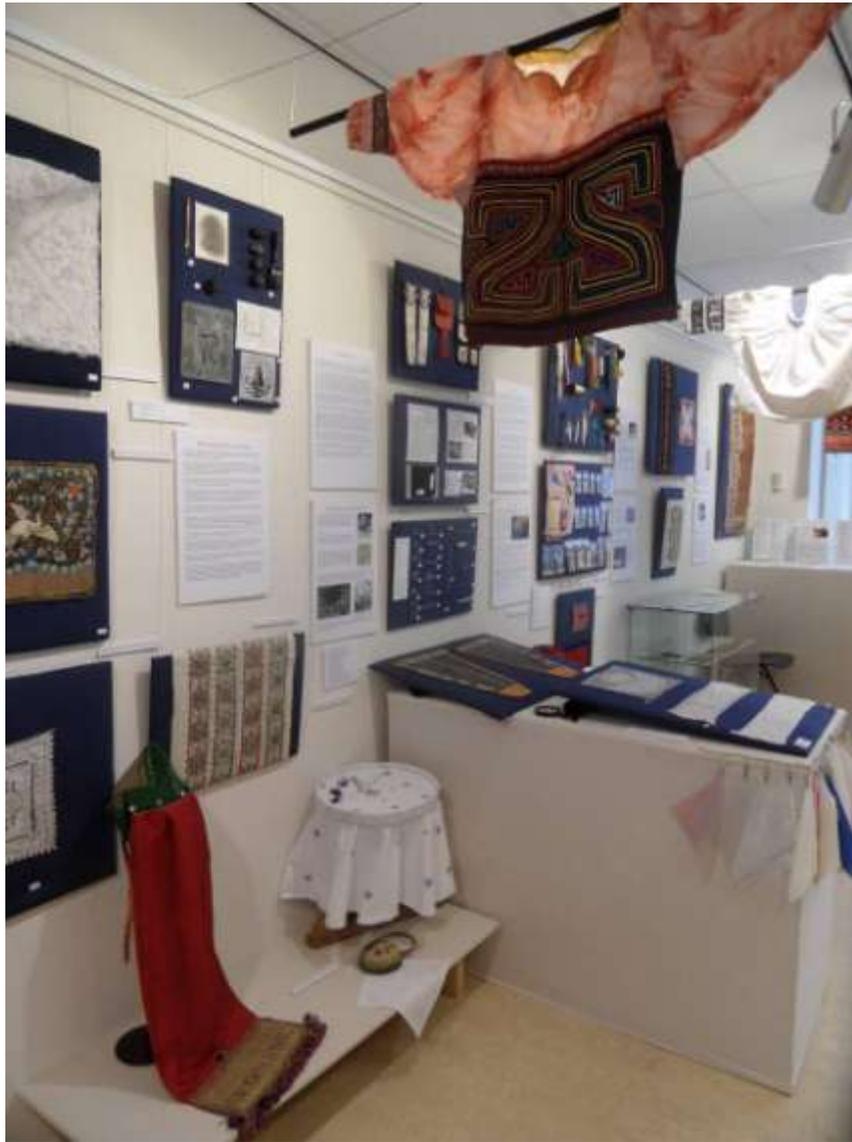
Here are a few glimpses of the exhibition – there is a lot more to see!!



What is Embroidery? Historical and modern examples of embroidery are used to explain what embroidery is and the diverse forms it can take.



Examples of different types of ground materials, threads, metal threads, even needles and how these can be used to produce different effects.



Where else could you find an Italian curtain, next to Chinese official panels, a Tunisian cap, Norwegian purses, Indian beetlewing embroidery, Berlin bead work, a Omani dagger sheath, Miao Chinese embroidery and a Turkish towel??



INSPIRATION!! Uzbek dress, with Pashtun dress (Afghanistan), Indian dresses, Dutch beading, Chinese ceremonial skirts, Roumanian bridal blouses, Paletinain dresses, Indian saris and oh so much more!





Japanese ceremonial kimono, woman's long vest from Hungary, Jordanian dress, Cameroon outfit for a woman.....





Literally from West Africa via Arabia and Central Asia to China

Textile Research Centre, Hogewoerd 164, 2311 HW, Leiden, Nederland  
071-5134144; 06-28830428 [info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl) [www.trc-leiden.nl](http://www.trc-leiden.nl)