

# INTRODUCING...

Meet Liz Payne; an artist from Sydney, Australia, who specialises in bright and beautiful textile art – did we also mention she's the Etsy 2015 Design Award Winner?

I create one of a kind hand embroidered artworks, combining hand painted textiles with embellishments like embroidery and beading. My pieces are colourful, textural and completely stitched by hand.

My passion for textiles and embroidery stemmed from a young age. My mum was very influential growing up; she can sew, knit, paint and I was lucky enough to always be surrounded by piles of fabric, wool, thread and beads in every shape, size and colour. I guess it was natural that later I would want to create things that combined my love of all those things!

Nowadays, I see working with thread as a replacement to the more traditional paintbrush or pencil; with embroidery, I can add colour and texture to a piece, and build it up so it's completely dimensional and textural. I also love embroidery for the fact that with each stitch and every bead added, it further adds to the uniqueness of the piece.

Using stitch, I like to create a synergy of movement and dimension with various threads and I aim to make them so your eye dances around from one intricate detail to the next. I like to experiment with shape, symbolism and symmetry in my work and try to create a harmonious energy to every piece.

As each piece is completely hand embroidered, they are a labour of love, and can be time consuming to complete! After coming up with a design, sketching it and sometimes fixing it in Photoshop or Illustrator, I paint the fabric - this itself can be a lengthy process! Some pieces are more planned than others; sometimes I just like to let colour, pattern and intuition take over. Every piece is so different.

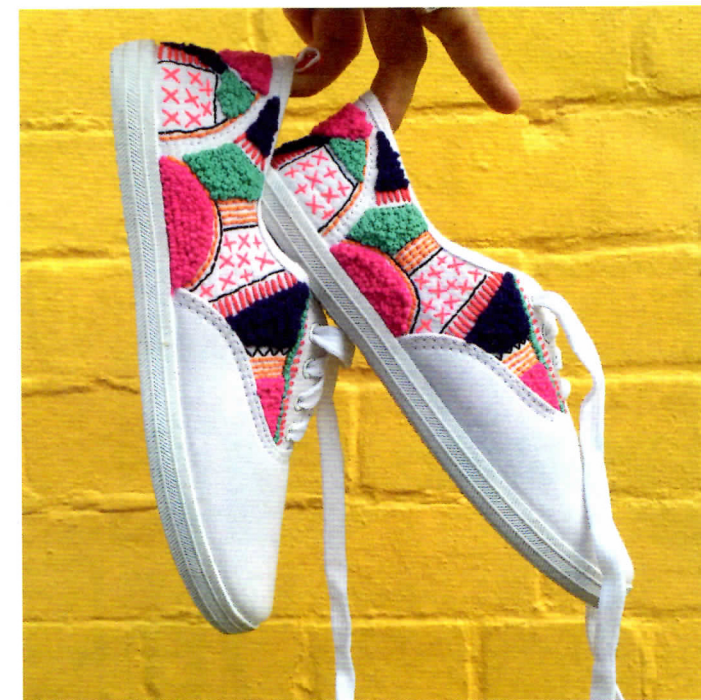
Next comes my favourite part - the embroidery! I love gradually adding colour and texture through thread and this is what makes my work unique. I am by no means a traditional embroiderer! I find

that embroidery can have a stigma to it that it's 'grandmotherly' or 'old fashioned'. It's my hope that when people see my work, this old connotation is blown out of the water. I'm taking an old method and choice of medium but applying it in a more contemporary approach. Embroidery also has a connotation to it that it must be perfect - and my work celebrates the fact that it doesn't have to be. For me, I don't need my stitching to be 'correct' - it doesn't need to be to still be beautiful and aesthetic as art. I think if it was, my work wouldn't have the same appeal. It's handmade and I think people are really starting to appreciate the time it takes for something to be made by hand.

Currently I sell my original artwork through my Etsy shop, Flirting with Yellow, ([www.flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com](http://www.flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com)) and I have just started to offer limited edition giclee prints of these originals too. I like giving this option as I find it is a way for people to get introduced to textile art at a more affordable option - and these prints look so lifelike you'd swear they were the originals! Recently, I had some prints displayed at an art fair, and I had so many people coming up to the prints trying to feel the texture! I also stitch custom sneakers, and I'm looking forward to introducing other hand stitched items in the future too.

Last year I won the Etsy Design Award in my category of Art, Illustration and Paper goods. The artwork that I won it with was 'Not Afraid', which was a textile piece delicately embroidered and beaded by hand in a range of thread, wool, and beads. Very bold and colourful, it was the result of hours of stitching! I was ecstatic to have won the award and it was an amazing achievement for me. To get recognition through such a reputable brand is so motivating for me to continue my dream of producing work like this. [www.flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com](http://www.flirtingwithyellow.etsy.com)

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Clockwise from top left: Me Holding *Not Afraid*; Embroidered Shoes; Me in studio; *Do You Feel It* detail; *Friday 2014*; *Hello Flower*.

