

Nikki Delpont-Wepener

‘Les Designs’

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Nikki in Hong Kong at her studio in Wing Lok Street, Sheung Wan on Hong Kong Island. It was an amazing experience to wander through narrow streets with shop owners selling dried fish and a wide range of different food to an entrance where the steps led up three stories to a delightful private studio. Nikki and I had arranged to meet via email. We talked, and I was able to enjoy many of the works in her studio plus learn about the embroideries being prepared on the history of Hong Kong for an exhibition in collaboration with a Hong Kong artist in 2019.

I was able to lock in two 3 hour courses with her the following week. I choose to work on a crocus worked with threads I had never used before and developing all from a three dimensional point of view. I learnt a method of transfer using a ‘bumped up’ photo which is a method a photocopy technician can do. This is worked on a cardboard surface. The fabric is taped with masking tape and the photocopy picture placed face down over the fabric. It is rubbed firmly with a rag dampened with acetone in a rotating manner. It is then worked in a similar motion using the back of a spoon. Once the photocopy has penetrated the fabric it is heat sealed, but first covering with a protection. Fascinating! I now have another embroidery to work on – the first flower shop in Hong Kong. I also meet Lesley, her Mum who arrived in Hong Kong from South Africa to teach just as we were leaving. A mother and daughter team who have taught all over the world and have a wealth of amazing techniques to share. We are so lucky to have Nikki coming to the Wanaka embroidery school next year as she is an excellent tutor, highly creative and has passion for the art of embroidery.



Nikki working with students

Mary Flaherty