

# Bobbin Lace Design: "Painting" with ground stitches



Facilitator: Pierre Fouché

Workshop Dates: Thursday 18th & Friday 19th June, 2020 from 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
(There will be a 90 minute lunchbreak to allow Pierre to nap if needed, as he will have arrived from the UK on Tuesday from the UK).

Venue: St James the Less, 550 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield IL 60093.

<https://www.stjamestheless.org/>

Registrar: Sue Babbs. 385 Meadowbrook Drive, Northfield, IL 60093.

Sue's Phone: Home: 847 446 5251 (preferred); Cell: 847 924 5621 (not always on!)

Email: [suebabbs385@gmail.com](mailto:suebabbs385@gmail.com)

Cost: \$200 (including a simple lunch each day)

In this workshop, visiting artist Pierre Fouché will introduce the idea of using ground stitches like brushstrokes, using an understanding of the basic building block of each stitch and how it interacts with the net. Fouché will explain and demonstrate that free-form grounds drawn with a variety of these building blocks can have the expressive character of a charcoal drawing or a watercolor painting.

This workshop will teach you the basic units of four ground stitch families: two-pair crossings in bias- and hexagonally arranged nets, four-pair crossings, and finally, three variations on six-pair crossings and their interactions with the net. You will practice applying these basic units in a free-form, doodle-like design of your own abstract piece of lace, in a process similar to playing Tetris with lace ground motif-shaped tiles, or building a wall with differently shaped Lego bricks.

You will leave with a greater understanding of the basic geometry of the most popular ground stitches, which will enrich your craft in numerous ways: being able to recognize a variety of grounds that can be worked on an existing pricking will provide the freedom to easily adapt existing designs with grounds of your own choice. It will also unlock the art of rapid ground exchanges within the same design area which can have many creative applications.

An optional, second component of this workshop is a series of feedback and mentorship sessions scheduled for the second day. Fouché will facilitate these sessions to convey the benefits of communal feedback, and also how to host your own peer-to-peer mentorship sessions with your local groups and lace friends. The second day of the workshop will accordingly have a more free-form schedule, with some students working on their designs while others are engaged in the mentorship sessions.

**Skill level:**

All levels of lacemakers are welcome to attend this workshop, as well as persons who did not attend Pierre's first workshop last year since the content focusses on a completely different facet of bobbin-lace design. Absolute beginners are welcome with the understanding that you will have to work more independently on day two if you are not presenting at the optional mentorship sessions on day two.

**What you need to bring:**

Your own preferred stationery for design/drawing:

pencils, erasers, fineliner pens/markers, colored pencils/markers,  
a small rule,

a notebook or binder of squared paper for notes and initial exercises.

You will be supplied with tracing paper and graph paper for your final design. The church will kindly allow us to use their photocopier for pricking reductions.

Also bring along your complete bobbin lace kit because we might already start making on day two.

Decide in advance what size you'd like your abstract piece to be and bring the appropriate amount of tools: bobbins wound in any thread you'd like to make your piece in, and depending on the size you'd like to design for, somewhere between 25 and 55 pairs, wound with approximately three and a half times the length of the final lace size per bobbin. You can choose your own final dimension beforehand.

Don't forget to bring your pricking making supplies too, (cardboard, transparent blue film, paper scissors, paper glue).

For the optional mentorship attendees, please bring a few examples of recent work or designs, or some printed photographs if the actual pieces are not available/easy to travel with.

## About your teacher:



Pierre Fouché (b. 1977. Pretoria, South Africa) achieved his MA in Fine Arts from the University of Stellenbosch in 2006. He has been making bobbin lace since 2009 and it has come to define his art practice. In 2018 he was a featured artist of Escaldes-Engordany's Textile Symposium in Andorra. Other notable group exhibitions include *Lace/not lace* at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, New Jersey; *Crafted: Objects in flux* at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (2018), *Women's work* at the Iziko South African National Gallery (2016), as well as the touring exhibition, *Queer Threads: Crafting Identity and Community*, first exhibited at the Leslie + Lohman Museum, New York (2015). His work is represented in the public collections of the Iziko South African National Gallery and the Artphilein Foundation, Switzerland, and numerous private and corporate collections. He is represented by Whatiftheworld Gallery in Cape Town, where he lives and works.

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Checks should be made out to S. Babbs, and mailed with this application form to Sue at the above address. We would suggest emailing Sue first to check there is still space in class.

Places will be assigned in order of mailing the checks! So mail them soon!!!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

To give us an idea of interest, please could you indicate if you would like to participate in the feedback and mentorship session: yes / no / maybe

If you are coming from out of town, please contact Sue who can give hotel suggestions.

Please indicate overleaf if you have any food allergies for lunch.