

WORKSHOP WITH VERA COCKUYT

April 5 -7, 2013

Colesville, MD

CHRYSANTHEMUM BLOEMWORK (Basic to intermediate lace skills are required)

Chrysanthemum Bloemwork is a kind of Bruges flower lace where the different pieces are joined by sewing with a hook. Chrysanthemum Bloemwork is a less-well known piece lace that uses techniques similar to Bloemwork but has less variety in design. A gathering of curled braids form the petals of the chrysanthemum flower.

Although much more basic in technique, Chrysanthemum Bloemwork requires the lacemaker to be attentive to tensioning when working the petals to come to a good result. The less technique a lace has, the more the outcome is controlled by the tensioning.



FLANDERS LACE (Intermediate lace skills are required)

Flanders Lace is part of the family of multiple-thread ground laces. These are the laces in which a ground stitch is made with 4 pairs instead of 2. Flanders Lace is a straight lace and is worked over a 45° angle. The ground stitches make up a very decorative ground work that alternates with designs worked out in cloth stitch or linen stitch and is therefore referred to as linen work.

To bring the threads from the ground work into the linen work and out again requires techniques that are typical of the Flemish laces. The linen work is also surrounded with a gimp. Since the lace is worked over 45°, it is easy to work around the corner. Because of the multiple thread ground, a Flanders lace demands double amount of threads than the same size Torchon piece.



ADVANCED TORCHON (Advanced lace skills are required)

While Torchon is widely regarded as the simplest kind of lace, some of the more important and complicated patterns can be both interesting and ingenious. Advanced Torchon patterns combine all techniques in a different way, resulting in a more complex design. Working out an advanced Torchon piece is a rediscovery of basic lace techniques on a complex pricking.



Vera Cockuyt has been researching and teaching lace for over 30 years and lives in Flanders, Belgium, close to Bruges and the Belgian lace centers. She started making lace in 1978 in the midst of the lace revival during the 1970's. She studied at the Kantcentrum in Bruges and in several lace schools throughout Europe. Her interest in lace has taken her all over Europe as well as other places in the world, including Australia, Canada, and the USA. Her knowledge of lace covers not only the many Flemish laces, but other techniques she discovered on her travels. Vera is the author of numerous books about lace techniques and travel.

