

ANNOUNCING THE 2012 NEW ENGLAND LACE GROUP LACE CHALLENGE!

This year's challenge will be to **create an Artist Trading Card (ATC) embellished with your handmade lace that is inspired by the poem "Questions About Angels" by Billy Collins.** The lace must be made by you and can be any form of lace. It should be 2-D and fit in the space of the card (the card must fit in its envelope). To add to the challenge, **you must include some BLUE thread in your work!** Aside from that there are no restrictions. You may combine your lace with other media. On the back of your card, include your name, the year, contact information, and the title of your piece.

Artist Trading Cards are all the rage among artists of all medium types. They are 2 ½ by 3 ½ inch cards that are used as the support for 2-D art, and are either traded with friends or other artists or are kept and displayed as small examples of the person's work.

Due to copyright restrictions we cannot reproduce the poem for the Newsletter or website, but it will be included in the Challenge Pack along with the blank ATC and envelope. You can also find it at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/176044> and in the books Sailing Around the Room (2001) and Questions About Angels (1991) by Billy Collins.

Free Challenge Packs will be available at the January NELG meeting and by mail after January 21th. Email to Carolyn Wetzel (NELGPrograms@gmail.com) or call her at 413.268.3115 (US Eastern Time Zone) to request a Pack (one per member). Each Pack will include a blank ATC and envelope and the poem. The thread and design are up to you!

At the NELG Annual Retreat in May 2012, we will display the ATCs and all persons in attendance will vote by secret ballot for several different winners: **Favorite ATC, Best Imagery for Poem, Most Unusual,** and **Most Technically Impressive.** Winners will receive splashy coverage in the NELG Website and July Newsletter, the admiration of their peers, and a \$20 gift certificate to a lace vendor.

Note: Your ATC WILL be returned to you after the Retreat – the “trading” part of ATC is optional

Details:

1. You must be a current NELG member to participate
2. Your ATC must be at the May retreat for display and voting. If you won't be there, arrangements can be made to send it.
3. You will retain ownership of your ATC, getting it back after the retreat - or you can trade it!
4. All reasonable care will be taken to safeguard entries. However, NELG, its officers and Retreat organizers, and Carolyn Wetzel will NOT be held responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen works entered in the Challenge.

5. NELG covers costs (ATC, return mail) for one entry per member. However, you can enter more than one at your own expense.