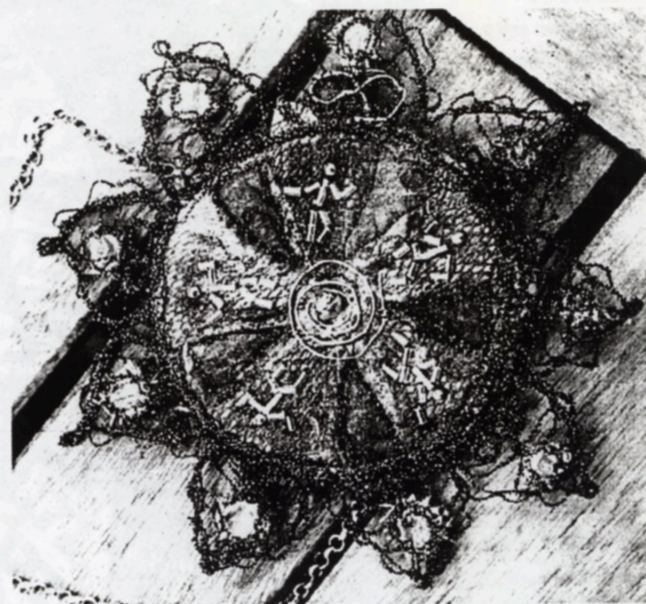


Louise Watson describes herself as a textile artist who hovers comfortably somewhere between "traditional and way out design, specialising in hand stitching and minute detail". This year her work has been a development of her dancing man motif. Her pieces contain magical figures and symbols of nature. Each highly detailed piece of work is an incantation, a magical spell and a renewing of energy.

Louise originally started out her working life as a primary school teacher, which she loved,

Guilds course. With no other experience in the field of embroidery or art, except for stitching as a hobby if she had a spare moment, Louise had developed her own unique style.

She began selling her work to friends and neighbours who soon became very interested, giving her the confidence to exhibit some of her work with an artist friend. Since then Louise has made a full-time career from her art, exhibiting all over the country. This month she is showing her latest work in Bampton from 5th to 19th April.



full of the symbols of fertility, Adam and Eve etc. Also, being pear shaped myself, I see them as incredibly womanly. The pear piece I have stitched is one of my favourites. It reminds me so much of three old ladies leaning up against a wall having a chat!"

Louise's fascination and experimentation with mark making and symbolism materialised in the creation of

Louise's spectacular amulets are made from dissolvable fabric and decorated bead work

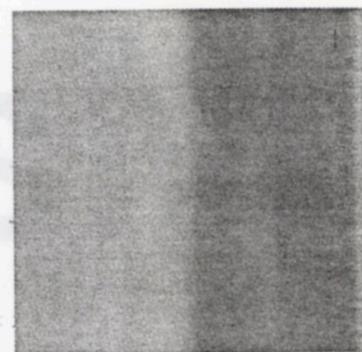
"I am hooked on apples and pears, I find them incredibly sensual and symbolic"

but she fell ill with glandular fever which eventually turned into debilitating ME. After being forced to leave her full-time teaching career, due to this energy depleting illness, Louise embarked on a five-year City &

"I have made a range of highly tactile fruit cushions this year. I've been experimenting with the symbolism of fruit", says Louise. "Especially apples and pears - which I am hooked on. I find them so sensual and



"The dancing man emerged because of the energy and life involved. I am sure that subconsciously it relates to my ME"



"The pear piece I have stitched, is one of my favourites - it reminds me of three old ladies leaning up against a wall and having a chat"

Magical motifs



the dancing man. "I wanted to see what I could symbolise with the least marks possible, and a stick figure offers so much meaning. The dancing came into it because of the energy and life involved. I am sure that subconsciously it relates to my ME. My dancing man is actually getting fatter, fleshier and stronger-looking as I develop him further."

After a five-year City & Guilds course, Louise developed her own unique style of textile art

Louise's spectacular hand and machine stitched amulets, made from dissolvable fabric and decorated using bead work, are

also a result of her fascination with symbolism as well as her interest in ethnic and Elizabethan crafts.

"One of my inspirations for the amulets was the desire to make something in textiles that would serve a purpose as well as being decorative. My amulets are inspired by African amulets that contain verses of the Koran.

"One of my inspirations for the amulets was the desire to make something in textiles that would serve a purpose as well as being decorative"

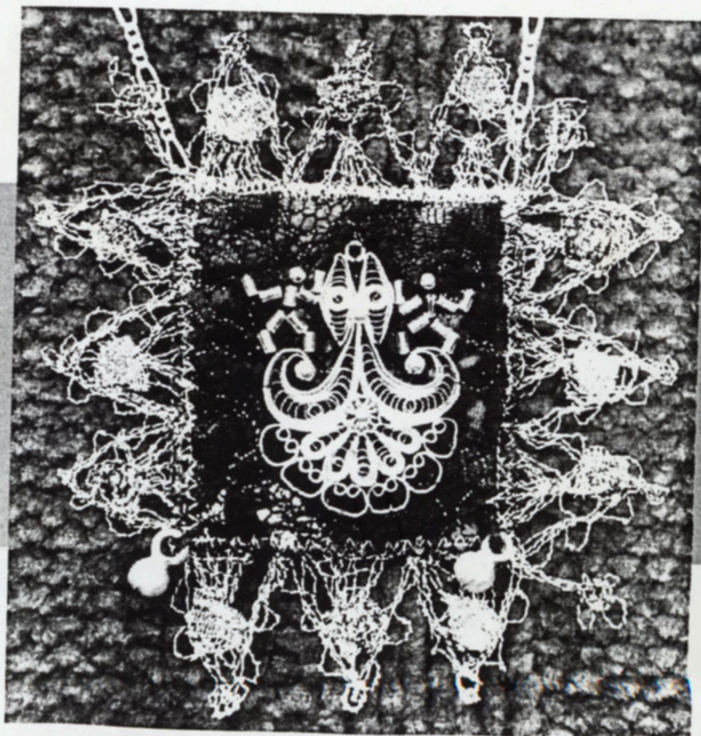
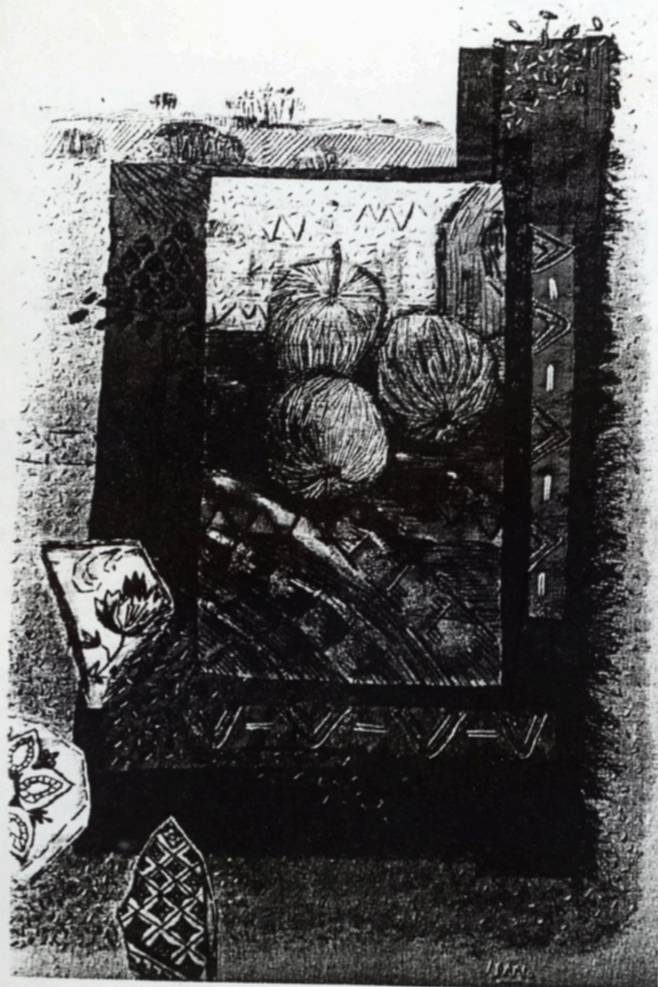
They are heavily encrusted with gold and silver stitching. They are talismans, embroidered with symbols of protection and good luck, to ward off evil spirits. They can be worn around your neck, or displayed on a wall".

Future plans for Louise include further exploration of her ever-growing dancing man, and also a study in blue and white of apples for cushions - made smaller and more intimate than her current fruit work.

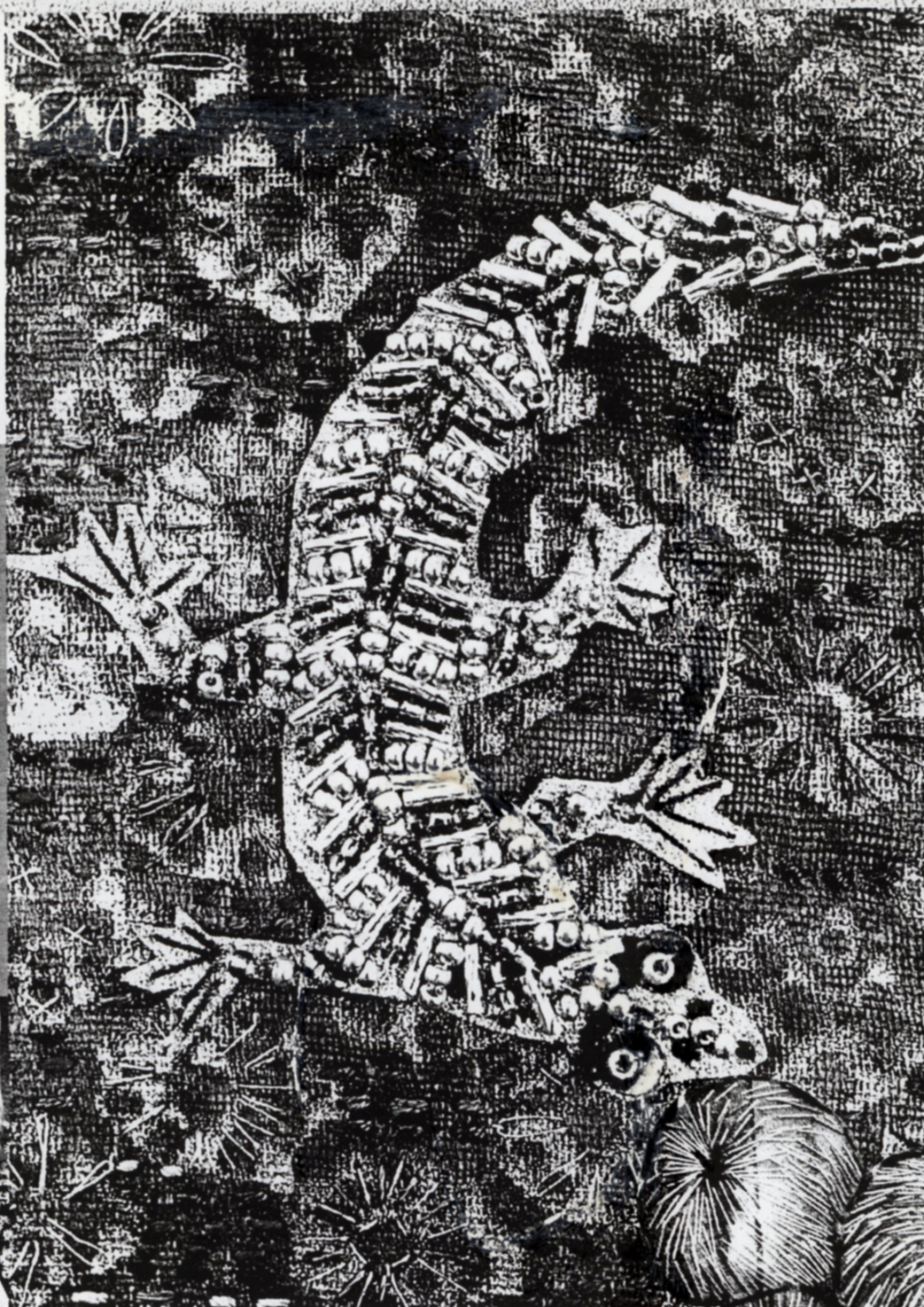
If you would like to see more of Louise Watson's work, she is exhibiting in Cirencester's Corinium Museum from 15th June to 15th July, and in Clevedon from 1st September for four weeks.

For more information contact Louise Watson ☎ 01453 834216.

"My dancing man is actually getting fatter, fleshier and stronger-looking as I develop him further"



Louise's pieces contain magical figures and symbols of nature. Each highly detailed piece of work is an incantation, a magical spell and a renewing of energy



Magical motifs

Louise Watson lives in a tiny village in the picturesque Cotswolds, with her husband and two children. Here she crafts exquisite amulets, sensual fruit cushions and various inspired, hand embroidered paintings. Louise chats to Vicky Crumpton