



Russian dolls card by Jenny Barrs



Once in a while we are pointed to a charming and idiosyncratic local gallery or shop that stands out from the rest. *Verandah* seems to fit the bill. Celebrating its first birthday in July this self-proclaimed 'gallery lifestyle shop' is run by a five person collective, three textile designers – Jenny Barrs, Vanessa Burroughes and Liz Clark – a jeweller, Jemima Pine and florist Christine Burton.

Their quirky handmade fabric collages, prints and cards, jewels and vintage dresses jostle for space alongside Wallace Sewell woven blankets and natty knitwear from Marilyn Thomas. Keep it up, girls!

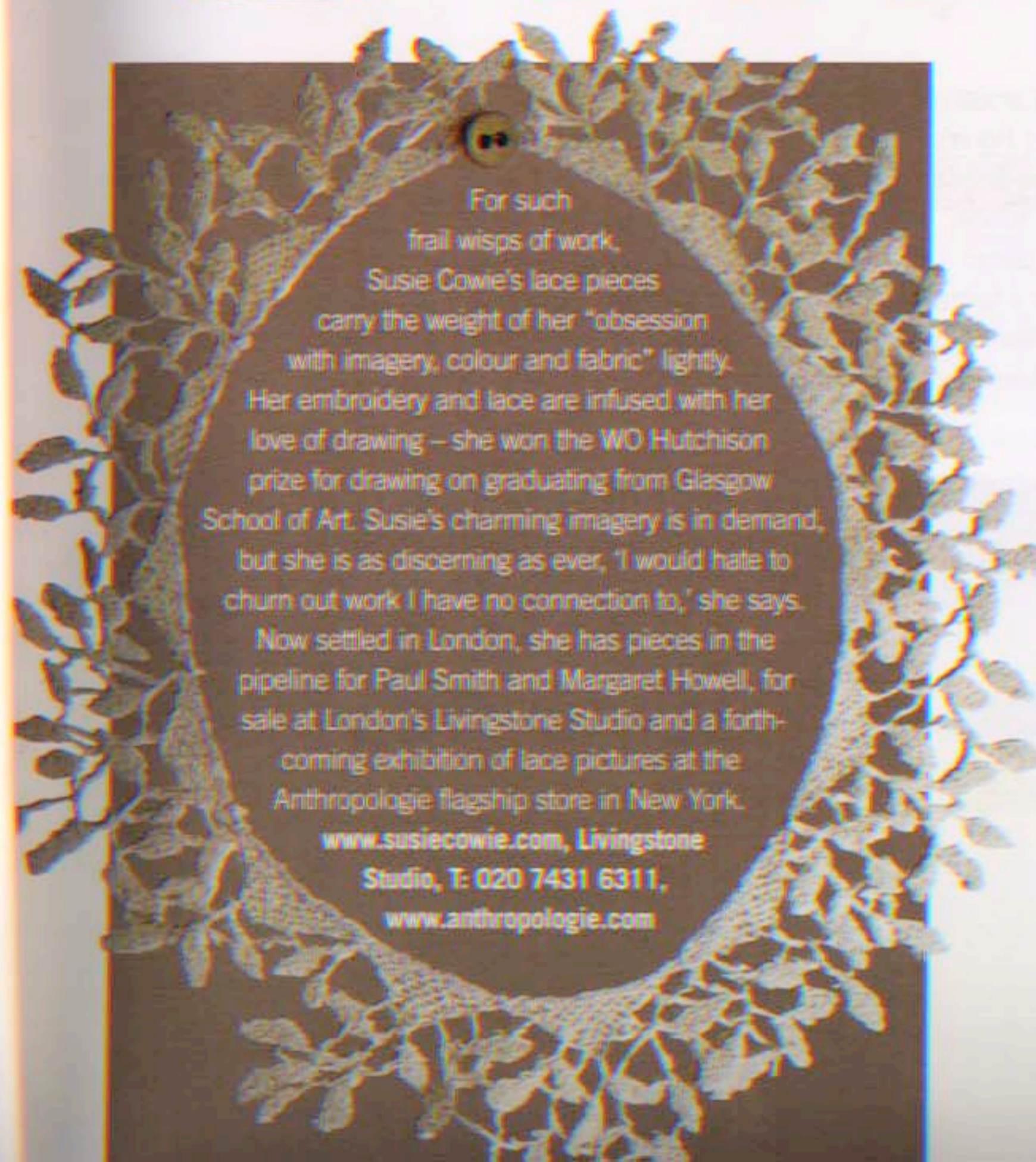
Verandah, 85a Upper St. Giles, Norwich, Norfolk, T: 01603 666137, www.verandah-norwich.co.uk

Ordinary

ins to Susie Vickery, winner of the Selvedge stunning embroidery exhibited at the Opus 2007: *Stitch! Draw!* earlier this year. We love it not only for its meticulous painterly quality but also for its wit to her subjects.

years as a costumier for theatre and film sets in Mumbai, overlooking the Arabian Sea as a young girl, with their constant noise and chaos nothing like seeing people sleeping on the street. 'I try to help you keep a sense of perspective in your own problems,' she says. Her work often draws on her friends and is influenced by the many refugee projects she has devoted herself to, as well as the vibrant patterns of bazaar posters and Christian iconography, all rendered in single strands of thread.

Discover new talent at Opus exhibition Pathways, Mall of London SW1, 3-7 July, www.opus-online.co.uk



For such frail wisps of work,

Susie Cowie's lace pieces

carry the weight of her "obsession with imagery, colour and fabric" lightly.

Her embroidery and lace are infused with her love of drawing – she won the WO Hutchison prize for drawing on graduating from Glasgow School of Art. Susie's charming imagery is in demand, but she is as discerning as ever, 'I would hate to churn out work I have no connection to,' she says.

Now settled in London, she has pieces in the pipeline for Paul Smith and Margaret Howell, for sale at London's Livingstone Studio and a forthcoming exhibition of lace pictures at the Anthropologie flagship store in New York.

www.susiecowie.com, Livingstone

Studio, T: 020 7431 6311.

www.anthropologie.com

Root and flower

Sometimes a textile technique is so accomplished that its beauty transcends time and culture. Such is the thirst for vintage items in fashion circles that the ancient Anatolian art of Oya needle lace has caught the attention of serious collectors across the world. Now these delicate family treasures are coming out of dark trunks and adorning the necks, waists, wrists and bags of fans such as Nicole Kidman.

The remarkable and skillfully made little flowers are hand crocheted from home-spun silk and used to embellish the edge of Turkish women's accessories, linens and scarves for their trousseau. Privately passed down from generation to generation during weddings, Oya is difficult to acquire but designers such as Nina Krasikoff and Kristina Feigin of Ninoff in New York and Arzu Keles, in the UK, have devoted themselves to the art, launching their own accessory collections in the hope that Oya will not die out. According to Nina, 'We have to give this art a second life. It's like poetry.' Ninoff's exclusive collection is at Blue Tree, NY www.bluetreenyc.com Necklace and brooches by Arzu Keles (right) enquiries@a-keles.com

