

Art Speak

Let's Talk about this
and learn about the artist.

Maxine Hadfield has donated a collection of 58 cross stitch textiles to UIHC Project Art.

Each framed cross stitched textile is a reproduction and interpretation of a fine art masterpiece. She began each piece by researching the artist and has included a brief art history lesson with each finished work. Ms. Hadfield charted and interpreted each artwork herself and refers to her art as “fine art with a fine needle”. Each piece involves 200 to 300 hours of stitching to create the image.

Maxine Hadfield is 88 years old and lives in Fort Walton Beach, Florida with her husband of 66 years, Ed Hadfield. She attended the University of Indianapolis, in Indiana and studied children's fashion design. Ms. Hadfield has always been interested in art and has traveled widely, attending over 50 Elderhostels to study art and visit museums. The collection represents over thirty years and 14,500 hours of cross stitching.



I have done some kind of art all of my life. After my husband retired in 1964 we began traveling. In each country we took classes, through Elderhostel, and were entertained at four different universities.

I have done over 70 different artists' work, some more than once. I do all my own charting and for every little dot you see, there are five threads. The thread of the fabric is crossed with two threads to the right and two threads to the left to make the X. Since I work on fabric that has 26 to 32 threads per inch, I must start in the middle and work out to keep the fabric from puckering or the stitching from becoming too tight.

When I started I tried to find something small I could use in the picture such as Whistler's Mother where I place a small piece of lace on her lap and on her head. This soon became impossible so I started adding things to the mat that would draw one into the picture.

Project Art welcomes viewer comments and questions. Please contact Marsha Howe at marsha-howe@uiowa.edu

Artist Statement: Maxine Hadfield