

North Kent Embroiderers

Hello everyone,

This month we were treated to a Zoom talk by Sara Cook www.bojagiuk.com entitled "Bojagi: Korean Textiles" We are all getting used to zooming now and there was a good turn out from our members.

Sara has sewn from an early age and originally trained as a theatre costume designer. She has visited Korea and worked with leading Bojagi artists there. Sara also teaches the skill to others and has written a book on the subject.



Bojagi textiles are pieces of cloth stitched together and often embroidered to make wrappings or coverings. The wraps were for functional or domestic items, usually square and used by rich and poor alike. You can see these two pieces done using silk organza and showing triple stitched seams. The



'Summer Glow' wall hanging on the left shows little tiny pine nut decorations on the edges which are supposed to bring good luck, whilst the other piece has 'bakjwi' – knots in the shape of bats. Photographs were taken by Michael Wicks. Bojagi supports the Confucion idea that to make something beautiful out

of scraps is a good thing.

Sara's talk gave us a fascinating insight into some of the customs and traditions of a Korean woman. She told us how new brides would be expected to make one hundred thimbles to give to the women in their new family, they would then be responsible for all the sewing in the house. The thimbles would be made from cotton fabric lined with mulberry paper and glued together to stop the needle going through. The young woman's stitches had to be even because "even stitches mean an even temper which makes for a good life".

After Sara's very interesting talk we had time for some discussion and chat.

If you would like to join us or just find out a bit more about us then please look at our website

<https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at:

info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission)

