

Selwedge

DESIGNER EDGE



items for foreground tactility and perspective. Pieces of vintage handkerchiefs and doilies are dyed and stitched on to replicate mottled fields. Lace frayed along the edges represents waves, and copper-wire-stemmed flowers with French-knot and button heads sprout from the ground. Although Louise's sewing machine is called into service for some stitched detailing and to help anchor sections into place, the multi-layer demands on the machinery certainly take their toll. "I have to have my machine regularly serviced. The maintenance man rolls his eyes, as my machine

does have to work extra hard for me!" says Louise.

Her creations are often produced in seasonal colours; she might work on spring themes one week and summer the next, but she is drawn again and again to her favourite palette – deep blues, cold greys, burnt umbers and crisp white. Time spent dyeing and painting fabric and paper is relished.

"I have 'play days' where I experiment with media in different ways," she says,



LOUISE O'HARA

From pasture to shoreline, Louise O'Hara's landscapes capture her memories of childhood holidays spent in England's glorious Yorkshire and Lake District, with their rich layers of paint, vintage fabrics and embellishments. Her signature mixed-media artworks are "rugged northern landscapes with brooding skies and lighter coastal scenes" surrounding classic cottages and created with layer upon layer of materials and techniques. Each is created by painting the landscape, then adding drawings and upcycled

much of which takes place in her artistically cluttered workroom, in her home in Cheshire, UK. "My studio is filled to the rafters with items that are often overlooked in everyday life: buttons, books, bottle-tops, typewriters, vintage fabrics. I love the fact that the items I collect offer a trace of the past and have stories to tell."

These materials are gathered from charity outlets as well as second-hand stores and antique shops. "I look for things that evoke memories within me. I want to rejuvenate them and breathe new life into them so they can continue in a cycle," says Louise.

As a side business to creating, exhibiting and selling the physical artworks, which vary in size from 12.5cm (5in) square to 76cm (30in) square, photos of her textile landscapes are also digitally printed onto heavyweight cotton and made into cushions, and prints of her work are available as greeting cards and wall art. So you can have your own piece of bucolic bliss in more ways than one, courtesy of Louise O'Hara.

For more on Louise O'Hara Art: www.louiseohara.co.uk and pinterest.com/louiseOHaraArt/my-work. To buy her work, visit www.facebook.com/LouiseOHaraArt and www.etsy.com/uk/shop/LouiseOHaraArt. Email art@louiseohara.co.uk.

– Janai Velez

