



## Creative Distractions

While waiting for a knee operation I had to make preparations for being unable to walk without crutches and living a sedentary life until I was able or allowed to move about more freely. This was not my first experience of these

restrictions but as I was then living on my own the thoughts of what I would fill my days with to keep me occupied and happy, became ever more important.

Being creative and having my studio upstairs and my bed having to be moved to the ground floor, I began wondering what new project would I do to keep myself busy, happy and immobile until I was better.



I have many creative interests and so choosing what would be possible, with as little chaos involved seemed a good way forward. So with that in mind, together with an opportunity to try something new, I discovered the enjoyment of random weaving and creative smocking. While being surrounded by various boxes of my miscellaneous fabrics, trimmings, craft materials and

DIY bits and bobs, I felt sure that inspiration would return once the initial affects of the operation were over, and I was right.

Simple things, like wooden and paper lolly sticks found a new creative use. Scraps of fabric and odd bits of ribbon, once the unnecessary end of a bow, short pieces of string, threads and fibres together with anything else that 'looked interesting' finally found a use, having been kept for years just waiting for that 'special need'!



I have often been told that I am a 'Hoarder' but I disagree, as to me, my vast collection of 'stuff' is the result of being an 'Archivist'. Lots of my interesting 'treasures' have been 'cast-offs' donated by other people and so would be impossible to replace now and I am also a great believer in recycling which also adds to my 'collection'.

The works I am showing, are created using the two different techniques I mentioned earlier - simple weaving and smocking. Both of those proved to be wonderful distractions and fulfilling activities that kept me engrossed and happy while my knee healed. Eventually I was able to return to my studio upstairs to continue with outstanding and new creative projects, which no doubt will continue to keep me happily occupied for the foreseeable future.

Julie Genner

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