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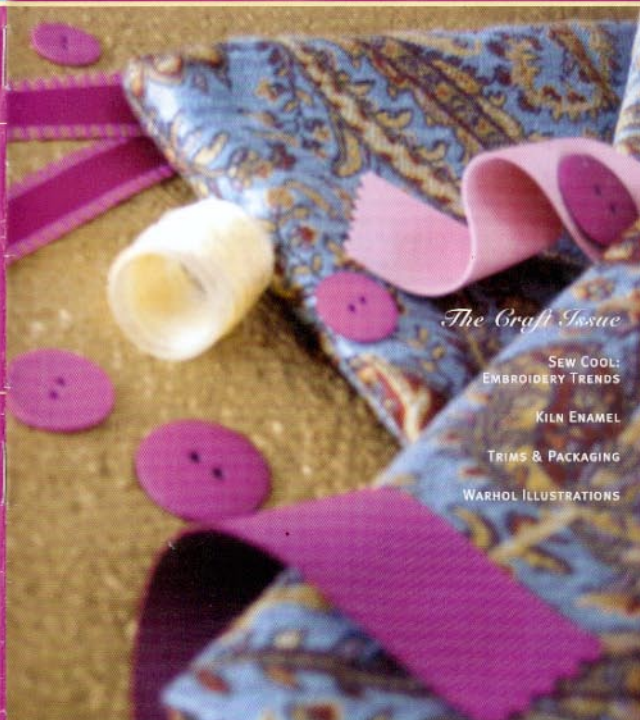
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PAULA SLOAN: CRAFTSILL ARTIST  
FOR ROBERTS, SA, ROBERTS, OAKEN, 2003



## *The Craft Issue*

SEW COOL:  
EMBROIDERY TRENDS

KILN ENAMEL

TRIMS & PACKAGING

WARHOL ILLUSTRATIONS



ABOVE: "Mr. And Mrs. Bolhanseck close to the Savannah hotel" by Paula Sanz Caballero

cut-out designs and "found" objects. Paula Sanz Caballero, born into a family of four generations of textile merchants, draws on her rich heritage but also combines it with new technology to create her collage designs. She creates sophisticated embroidery pieces with an illustrative approach and a strong narrative – works that are both art and design, and thus are as comfortable in a gallery as in a fashion magazine.

Even more radical is the work of Dutch designer Hella Jongerius. In an avant-garde move that demonstrated a rethinking of materials and their applications, she added embroidery to perforated stone vases and even stitched pieces of a ceramic tea set to a table cloth. Interestingly enough, Jongerius is also the curator of an upcoming exhibition (opening on March 4th, 2005) of Manhattan's Cooper-Hewitt's unparalleled collection of samplers – embroidered notes made by needlewomen as a means of recording and transmitting designs and skills.

### EMBROIDERY THREADS & WHAT THEY DO

*Madeira USA*, a firm that has traded in embroidery threads for eighty years, evolved a process in 2003 that eliminated the heavy backing of traditional embroidery. Metallic threads, popular again, can now be used without scratchiness or heaviness, which could make embroidery work a staple in youth and activewear markets where comfort is paramount.

*Coats USA* offers a wide range of threads including Sylko Art, a trilobal polyester embroidery thread developed for finer definition of detail and quality small lettering on fabrics or leather; Sylko Colour twist, which imparts a heather twist effect that easily adapts a 3-D quality; Sylko Metallic, with a bold metallic sheen; Coats Woolly, an acrylic fiber embroidery thread offering both softness and strength.

The Sylko trilobal polyester embroidery thread is a recent (20-25 years) development in which each of the approximately 66 individual filaments making up a single end of embroidery thread has a triangular, as opposed to circular, cross-section. It is the triangular profile that gives the thread greater reflective values resulting in an extremely high luster.