

Mary E. Beuris  
Bays Mountain Chapter  
Embroiderers' Guild of America  
553 W Stone Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37660-3212  
January 5, 2024

Ms. Beth Estep Lane  
Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts  
City of Kingsport  
1200 East Center Street  
Kingsport, TN 37660

Dear Ms. Lane:

In the first half of 2018, the Bays Mountain Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America began stitching a zebra, we affectionately called "Zak the Zebra." "Ashanti: A Carousel Zebra" is designed by thread painting artist Debra Williams who started designing canvas pieces when she learned about needlepoint and realized that the supplies were expensive, and the pre-designed canvases were even more costly. She bought a blank piece of canvas and started designing her own. Ms. Williams designed "Ashanti: A Carousel Zebra" using a variety of threads, including embroidery floss, perle cotton, wool and silk, to achieve the textures in the canvas piece. She also integrates beading techniques for an exquisite effect. The layers of the stitches and the beading techniques create a wonderful variety of texture and dimension to make Ashanti come to life on the canvas embroidered piece. As the members of Bays Mountain Chapter EGA stitched the zebra, we began to think about where a good home would be for the exquisite piece of needlework. After chatting about it, we decided that having it publicly displayed at the Kingsport Carousel would be a place where our work could be enjoyed. We would like the piece to be a representation of our group and for it to be displayed somewhere so that people can appreciate its beauty and the work that has gone into it.

The value of this piece is between \$1500 and \$2000. There are hundreds of hours that have been spent on stitching the piece. Up Against the Wall framed the piece and it is ready to hang. I am sending pictures of the framed piece which measures 25 inches wide by 26 ½ inches in height. If there are other questions and requests about this piece, please feel free to reach out to us.

Bays Mountain Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America has been in Kingsport, Tennessee since the early 1980's. We are a group of stitchers who endeavor to pursue a high standard in Needle Arts reaching and teaching those who wish to preserve the history and techniques. We welcome stitchers of all levels.

We hope that you can find a place for this piece of needle art!

Sincerely,  
Mary E. Beuris