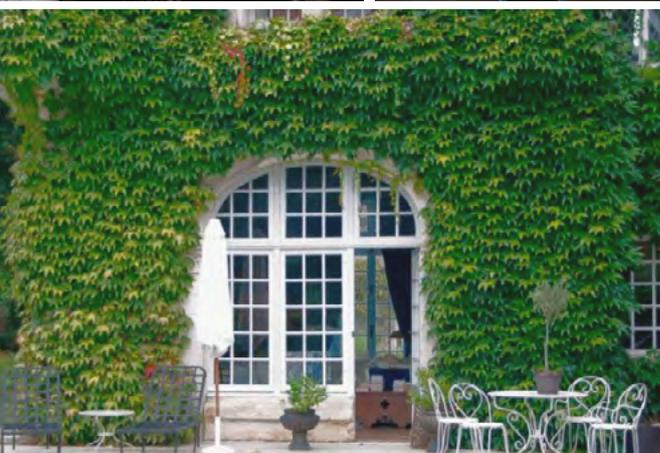




# CAROLINE ZOOB | WORKSHOPS

Join Caroline Zoob & Kate Nicole (Oyster Bridge & Co) in France for a week of Creative Workshops from 4-11 September, 2017



# St Victor la Grand' Maison is a small, turrets-and-fairytale-towers chateau about 50 miles north east of Poitiers in the French region of Berry

I spent a week here with my husband a couple of years ago, and was struck by the peaceful atmosphere and relaxed charm and comfort of the place. I thought how marvellous it would be to gather a group of creative people in such a beautiful and inspiring setting for a week of embroidery and mixed media workshops. Days of stitching, painting, more stitching, a bit of swimming, reading, eating delicious food...and more stitching. Following another visit last year, I have followed my instincts and reserved the chateau for seven nights from 4 September, 2017.

## THE WORKSHOPS

I am delighted that Kate Nicole, of *Rosehip* and *Oyster Bridge & Co*, has agreed to be a second tutor. This will not only enable us to teach two smaller groups simultaneously, it will also give participants a chance to acquire or develop a wider range of complementary skills. Kate and I use similar materials and share a love of all things vintage, but work in different ways.

We are excited about sharing our techniques and helping you to use these in various projects. At the beginning of the week, you will



be given a choice of projects and classes, from which the timetable will be drawn up, depending on what people choose. We may also create small ad hoc 'breakout groups' for people with particular interests. With time for you to work on your pieces in between classes, we should be able to achieve some exciting results. The studio will be generously stocked with vintage fabrics, papers, haberdashery and other materials. The large, airy living room will be converted into a studio, and some classes may take place in smaller rooms around the property.

## RELAXATION

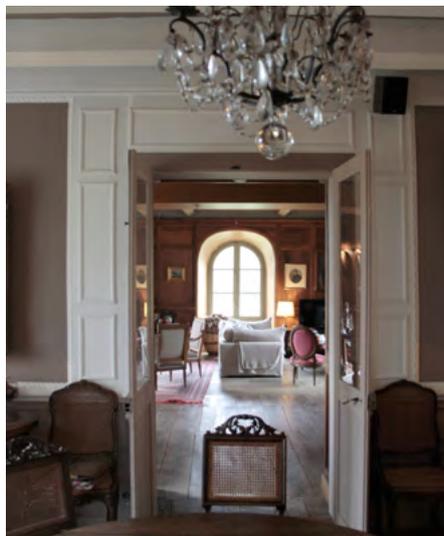
While the focus of the week is on the workshops, we are mindful that it is also a holiday, and want everyone to go home feeling not



only inspired but that they have enjoyed a break in a beautiful and relaxing environment.

Combining work and pleasure, we will visit the gardens of the *Prieure d'Orsan*, one of the most inspiring places we have ever visited.

We hope you will join us for what we plan to be an intensely creative week inspired by beautiful surroundings.





## FOOD AT ST VICTOR

You may expect delicious, home made food, stylishly presented. It is expected that we will all eat together around the huge table in the galleried dining hall, or in the romantic byre if the weather is fine. Afternoon tea will be taken on the covered terrace in the teachers' house. All meals for the week are included. Continental breakfast, a light two course lunch and three course supper with wine in the evenings.

## ACCOMMODATION

The owner of *St Victor la Grand Maison Marie*, (see below), has renovated her family home with immense style, combining beautiful antiques with modern comforts. It has been awarded 5\* by the *French Gites* association, and reviews on *Trip Advisor* are consistently glowing.

The beds are comfortable, with good bed linen, the bathrooms are a mix of glamorous roll top baths and modern walk-in showers. One or two have showers cleverly built into the turrets. One swimming pool is adjacent to the house, and surrounded by a stone terrace with roses and lavender. The other is smaller, and surrounded by a deck, but convenient for a quick plunge for those staying in the nearby outhouses. The views are gorgeous, the grounds extend down to the river Anglin. There are five rooms with en-suite facilities. The



rest of the bedrooms are in the shared houses, created from the outbuildings of the chateau and stylishly renovated, and so bathrooms are shared. Each house has comfortable, spacious living accommodation, perfect for a bit of morning stitching, or sharing a bottle of wine in the evening. While we will all eat together and socialize in the communal rooms it is nice to have space to spread out and enjoy a bit of privacy, and for this, *St Victor* is perfect.



## NON PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

Please do consider bringing partners. Most of the rooms are doubles, and the charge for non-participating partners has been set to reflect this. Anyone with a partner whose idea of a holiday is to relax somewhere beautiful, from where they can take lovely walks, enjoy nature, swim, read, take photographs, paint or sketch, will find that this is the perfect place to enjoy a week together. There will be free time after lunch each day as I plan to organize the timetable taking into account the climate, and the need for a bit of a break during the day. My husband will be with us to help with hosting, so he will be up for trips or walks, and if partners come along they may want to hire a car and explore. The region is full of interesting small chateaux, towns such as Argenton and Chauvigny, the house where George Sand lived at Nohant, and the picturesque hilltop town of Gargilesse. A living room with doors opening to the swimming pool will be for our use, and there are comfortable living quarters in each of the shared houses, so partners can be reassured that they can get away from stitching women and enjoy a drink and a book in a quiet place!

## ROOMS IN LA MIEILLERIE (THE HONEY HOUSE)

St Victor la Grand'Maison consists of the main house, and a series of outbuildings which have been converted into self contained accommodation. At the point of revising this brochure, the remaining rooms are in The Honey House, which has two doubles, one twin and spacious living accommodation. There are three bathrooms, two with showers and a swimming pool only steps away. It is hoped that even if the people in the shared houses are not friends before the workshop, that after a week of repairing to their shared houses for a bit of late night stitching and perhaps a nightcap or two, they will become so.



ROOM TYPE (price per person)	PRICE	TICK HERE
<b>Double room in La Mieillerie (The Honey House)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This house has two rooms with double beds, and one twin bedded room, and three bathrooms, one of which is a shower room only. The twin room is £2000 for single occupancy, but if two participants wish to share this room, it will be £1700 each.</li> </ul>	£2000	
<b>Room with twin beds, shared occupancy</b>	£1700	
<b>Room with twin beds, single occupancy</b>	£2000	
<b>Non-participating partner sharing a double room</b>	£600	

### INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation
- All meals, with wine at supper
- At least 30 hours of tuition and all materials
- An excursion to the *Prieure d'Orsan* gardens with lunch.

### NOT INCLUDED

- Travel costs. The nearest airport is Poitiers. We will try to minimize transfer costs by arranging shared cabs/pick ups.
- Costs for other local excursions, Depending on available

transport and how people feel, there may be opportunities to visit nearby towns.

- Participants must take out travel insurance which covers them for medical treatment, including repatriation costs.

If you are interested in booking a place please email Caroline at [sales@carolinezoob.co.uk](mailto:sales@carolinezoob.co.uk)

A room of your own,  
a table of your own and a  
whole week in which to  
indulge in creative  
pursuits in beautiful  
surroundings.





The ethos is to encourage and allow people to try new things, to explore the different techniques we can offer

#### A WHOLE WEEK TO EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

The ethos of this week is to encourage and allow people to try new things, to explore the different techniques we can offer. Kate Nicole is a watercolour artist who paints exquisite pictures of butterflies, ferns, and flowers. She then embellishes the painted surfaces with immaculate machine stitching, lending the painting texture and depth. A fine calligrapher, Kate also works with papers to create charming garlands and notebooks.

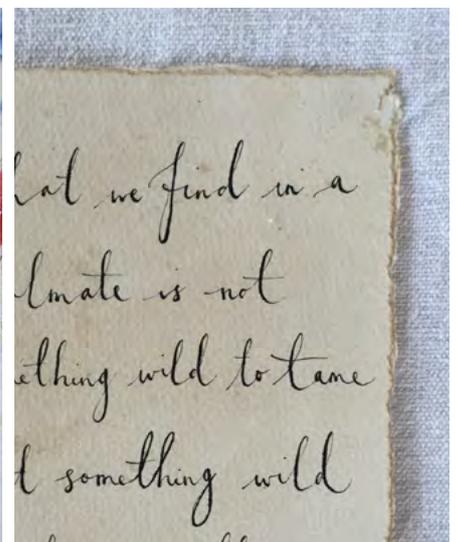
I love stitching by hand, but of late I have been adding machine

stitching to my hand embroidery. I am not a watercolour artist, but have used watercolour inks and paint in my work for years and it is something I am drawn to more and more. A few years ago I developed a passion for working with antique papers, from which I make intricate collages.

So between us we offer complementary techniques, which people will be able to layer into their work across the week. Classes will be small and some may even be individually tailored. We are deliberately not setting a timetable in stone at this stage, because we want to assess the

different interests and skills of each member of the group.

To ensure that everyone tries all the techniques on offer, we are planning to build into each day two hour-long sessions in which each participant will decorate a small piece of either pre-cut linen or paper, all the same size. So we might make a simple paper collage on one flag, try a little watercolour painting on another, and cover another with calligraphy practise. With the textile flag, we might practice some stitches, do some needle turned applique, some *boro* work or *kantha*. In your free time,



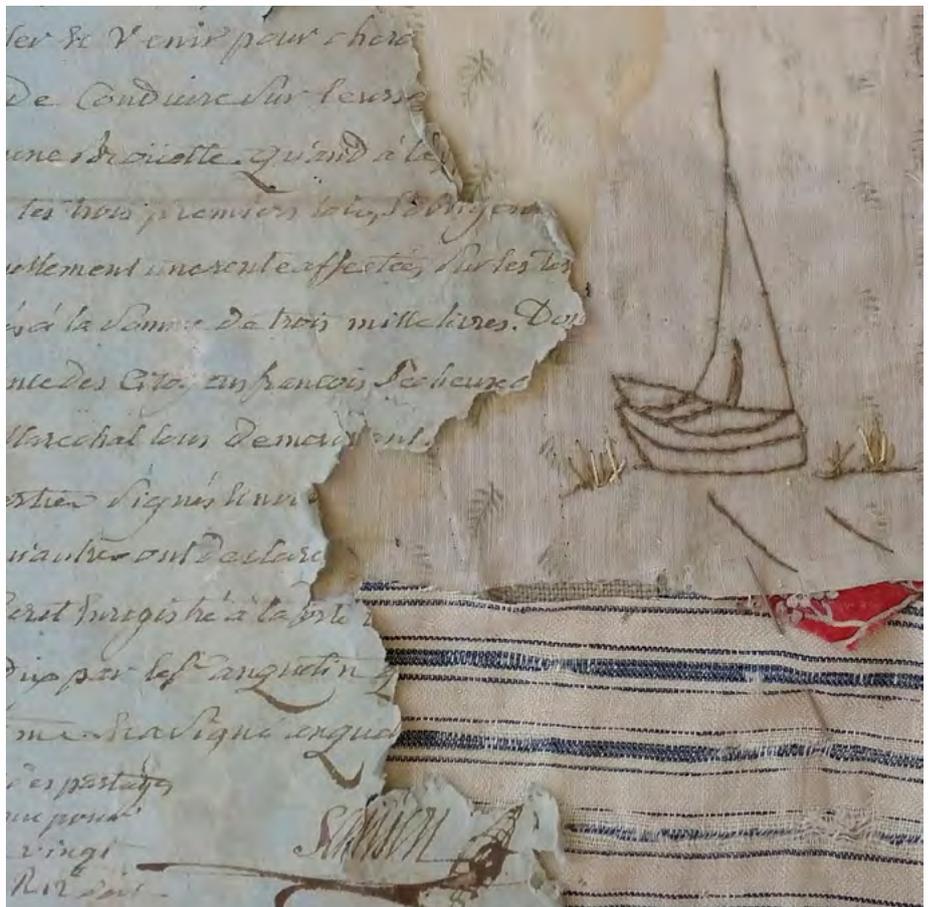
you can embellish these further. At the end of the week you will have several pieces which you can either frame or use to make a length of bunting, or paste into an album, creating a record of the skills you have acquired over the course of the week.

We will visit the beautiful garden at Prieure d'Orsan, which we hope will be a source of inspiration for both a garden embroidery and a mixed media piece.

On the first evening Kate and I will present some ideas for larger scale projects for people to consider and the timetable will be planned accordingly. We hope that each participant will, in addition to the above mentioned flags, make at least one large scale mixed media piece, and one textile and embroidery piece. Some may prefer to make several small things, others may want to take advantage of the time a week affords to work on one or two more intricate pieces. With two tutors, we can arrange the days to meet the different demands.

Each evening the timetable for the following day will be put up, depending on where people have got to with their projects. The daily timetable will be planned to provided 6 hours of tuition in workshops as well as private time for stitching/swimming/reading/resting. Classes for the day will end at 6pm with supper at 8.00pm.

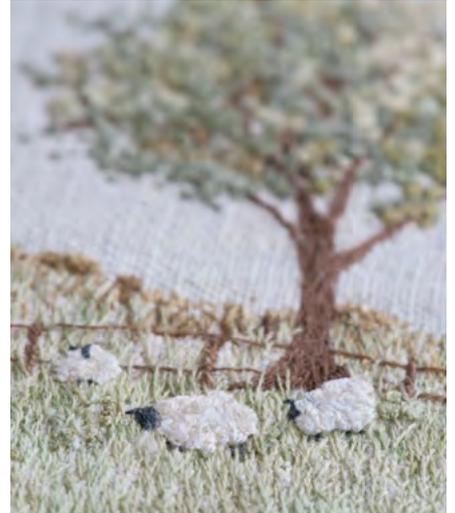
We will bring a generous array of papers and vintage fabrics, haberdashery, hand dyed threads, papers, inks, paints and other inspiring treasures for us to use.



## About the tutors

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CAROLINE ZOOB is a self-taught embroiderer with no formal art training. After school she trained as an opera singer, and then qualified as a solicitor. She discovered antique textiles and took up stitching in her late 30s, when her work was spotted by *Country Living* magazine. Her first show in 2000 sold out and now her delicate, painterly embroideries and collages made from antique papers are much sought after. Her first book, *Childhood Treasures*, was published in 2004. She has designed children's bed linen for a leading UK brand, as well as ranges of ceramics, wrapping paper and cards. Caroline and her husband were tenants of Monk's House, the former home of Virginia Woolf, for ten years, and her books *The Hand Stitched Home* and *Virginia Woolf's Garden* contain embroidered work inspired by the garden they restored and maintained on behalf of the *National Trust*. Caroline is hugely inspired by the countryside, and gardens. An experienced teacher, she enjoys devising workshops and regards teaching as a process of sharing observations and skills generously and, in doing so, helping people to find and follow their own creative instincts.



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“ I can't tell you how marvellous it was....  
I feel more confident and I can't wait to do further projects ”

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KATE NICOLE has always been creative. From an early age she was introduced to French brocantes from which she acquired a love of old and vintage things. An art foundation course was followed by travelling and working overseas, always making and creating, often selling her work as she went. On her return to England, she took up her paintbrush and needle again, building up a small collection of flower paintings inspired by a hydrangea painting she had made for her mother a long time ago. She taught herself calligraphy, and now her work with paper paraphernalia, often embellished with stitching and exquisite writing and framed in antique French frames, is extremely popular and sold in several independent boutiques. Like Caroline, Kate is self taught, and always developing and practising new techniques.

