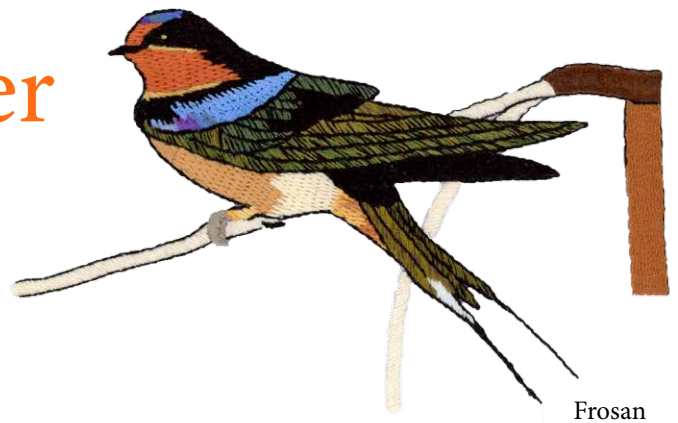


# Guldusi-Newsletter

November 2018

by  
Pascale Goldenberg



This year's last journey to Afghanistan was uneventful, although I travelled during a turbulent time. Having little choice, I landed in Kabul during the Parliamentary elections. I arrived on the first day of voting, but noticed little of the general excitement as I stayed discreetly with my host family. Khaled went to vote in the afternoon, in spite of a terrorist attack against his polling station in the morning. I was surprised when he was back so soon, and he explained that there had not been any queues because people were frightened to go to the polling station.

The next day we went out to the villages, where, within three days, I met practically all embroiderers. I looked at their fingers to check for traces of them voting, as all those who did vote had to put their fingers into a bottle of ink. Only one of them, Fatemah, a teacher, had voted. I asked Simin, whose self-confidence is something of a miracle in Afghanistan for me, why she had not voted. She explained she had been too scared to stand in the queue. But then she spoke to Khaled and said something wonderful: "Khaled, you should have been a candidate. The country needs men like you." But Khaled replied that he was not the right candidate because he would not do dirty deals, would not sell drugs and could never kill anybody. Thus, he was lacking all the necessary qualifications to be elected into Parliament.



## Who is Khaled?

Khaled Hashimi lives with his family in Kabul and is employed by the Deutsch-Afghanische Initiative, our organisation in Freiburg. He handles the sponsorship of children and looks after the schools that DAI has built or rebuilt. His work requires regular trips to the Shomali plain north of Kabul in the province of Parwan, where all these projects take place.

One trip each quarter is devoted to the embroideries, which he collects with one of us from Germany. These excursions run smoothly because Khaled is very careful and his plan well-thought-out. Because of this long standing collaboration, the men in the villages even allow him to see the women. Khaled is a wonderful person who strictly ensures that every woman is heard: each should give their best, but also get the most out of it. We speak English with Khaled, which he translates directly into the Dari dialect spoken in the villages. Without him and his dedication, this programme for women would not exist!



Gulbarg



Nadgiba



Sabsa

## New embroideries

As usual during this season, the women handed in few embroideries. From summer to early autumn they are too busy working in their own gardens, drying fruit and vegetables and canning for the winter months, such as jams or pickles. It was, however, a batch of beautiful pieces. I am especially happy that they have understood that it is better to produce superior quality rather than quantity. It has been a long way until this realisation.



Samira

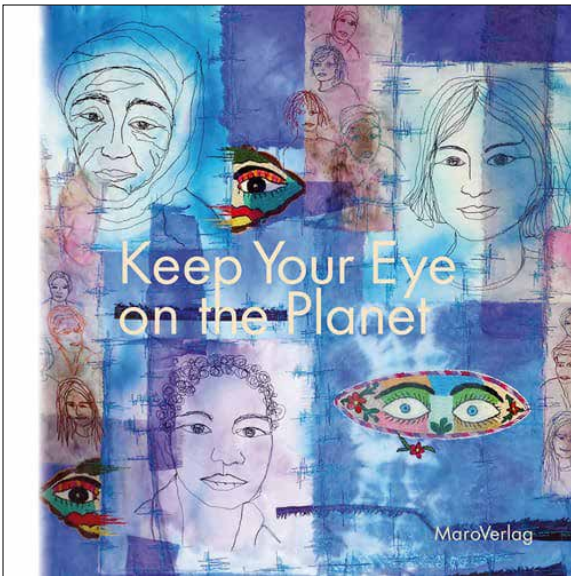


The current batch has been arranged for the upcoming events in Europe (Germany, France and Austria). The pieces are to be sold at exhibitions and Christmas markets, where the embroidery programme is present. If you do not have the opportunity to visit one of these occasions, you are welcome to look at a large selection of [stars in our Online-Shop](#) and order them there. They can be found in squares and small circles.

Uschi Brenner has been working diligently ahead for Christmas and presents us with ideas for arrangements with small circles.

Thank you, Uschi!

# Keep Your Eye on the Planet

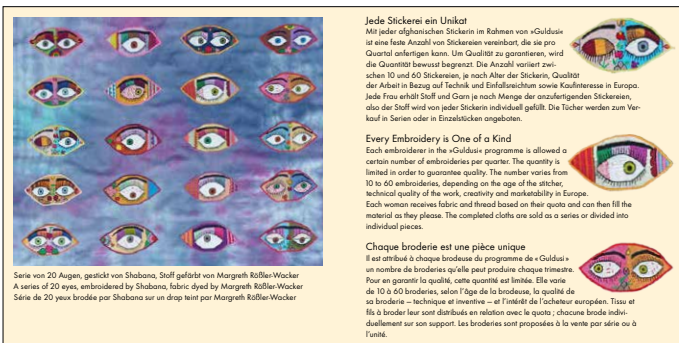


The big news of the past few months is the first presentation of the travelling exhibition from the last competition [Keep Your Eye on the Planet](#). From 113 submissions a jury of textile experts chose 45 works. These textile works (60×60cm) were made by European women. The task was to creatively interpret the complex theme incorporating an embroidered eye or pair of eyes from Guldusi into the work. We have been able to compose an interesting exhibition from these works that you will be able to enjoy in various places during the next two years. Please check our [event calendar](#) for future venues.

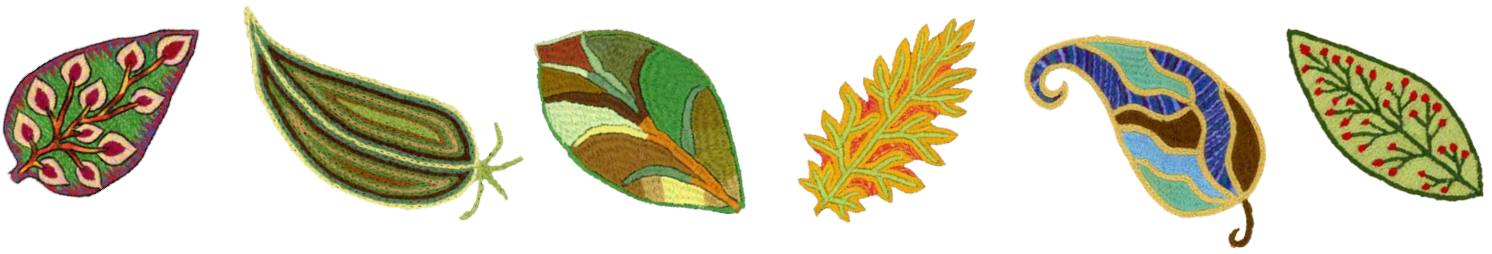
This project was so exciting that during the summer a [new gallery book](#) was compiled, in which each work is depicted as a whole and with one detail. These images are combined with texts and short stories from Afghanistan, as well as Persian poetry and proverbs, thus presenting traditions and reality in a country so far away from us. We also report about the proactive work of the artists Astrid J. Eichin and Elisabeth Masé, and the project “Peace of Paper” from Munich. They all share the idea and the spirit of the competition’s topic.

Thus, the gallery book [Keep Your Eye on the Planet](#) has become much more than an exhibition catalogue. It offers an exciting variety of pictures and texts, taking the readers on an intercultural journey through its combination of textile art, Persian culture and humanitarian work in Germany.

Here are a few double spreads for a first glimpse. You can find more pages in our [extract](#) here.



The gallery book [Keep Your Eye on the Planet](#) is the third gallery book which we published about the embroidery programme Guldusi. The first one is called [threads unite](#), the second [Gardens Around the World](#). You can find more information about all of those colourful books in our [shop](#).



The embroidery programme, which goes into its 15<sup>th</sup> year in 2019, owes its existence to the dedication, commitment and the work of many helpers. Everyone can contribute to its ongoing success, each in their own personal way. Even forwarding this newsletter to friends may be helpful. Of course it would also help the project if you [buy our embroideries or our books](#) (please see also our Winter Fundraiser with embroidered coats underneath), request some pieces on commission for your own exhibition or arrange for the placement of an exhibition. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas; thank you in advance!

Finally, I wish you a relaxing and peaceful turn of the year. And I sincerely wish for all the people on the planet, not only us in Europe, to live in peace and safety, with sufficient supplies of food, and hope to be able to determine their own future.

Yours  
Pascale Goldenberg



## Coats – A Winter Fundraiser

For the 2018/2019 winter we are running a fundraiser with embroidered coats, to support our [emergency programme](#). The embroidery programme is organised so that it supports itself through the sale of embroideries. The embroiderers are paid for completed work, whether or not it can be sold in Europe. At the same time we have an emergency programme financed solely through donations. Those funds are used to provide financial help to embroiderers who have become too old or too ill to continue. Widows, whose wages are insufficient to support the entire family, also receive money from this fund. Other than that, we support students who are embroiderers or the daughters of embroiderers, so they can purchase the necessary books for their studies and pay for transportation to the university.

The [Coats Winter Fundraiser](#) is intended to refill this emergency account. Half of the proceeds from the sales of coats in this gallery are contributed to this [special aid programme](#). Thank you for your support!

The Coat embroideries are between 64–70 square cm and are, with ample surrounding fabric, ideal for framing. See [here](#) all offered coats.

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