

# Guldusi-Newsletter

April 2020

by  
Pascale Goldenberg



Feriba

Dear friends of the Guldusi embroidery programme,



In cold December in Afghanistan. After bread baking, the leftover ash is put underneath the *Sandali*, a kind of heating.

On the day of the border closure, Khaled, our DAI representative in Kabul wrote that it had been a very bad day for the Afghans: People had wanted to buy food supplies at the bazaars, but merchants had doubled the prices. Meanwhile, the situation has calmed down somewhat.



Bilqis

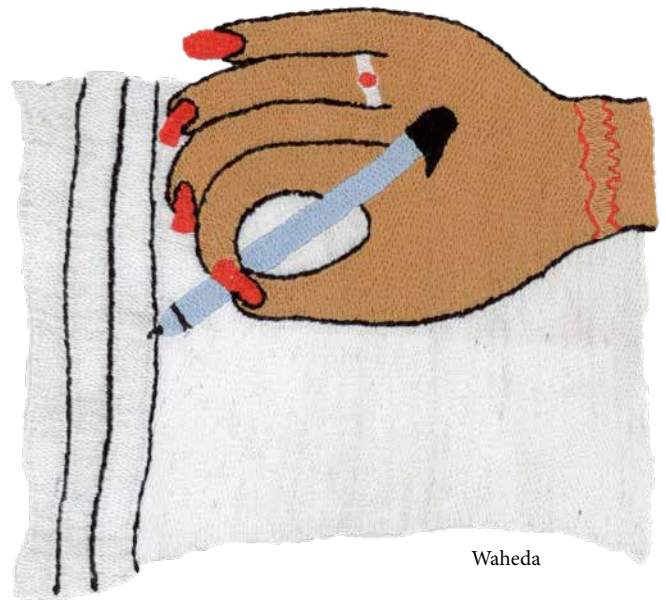


Meshgan

The embroiderer (left) shows Pascale (centre) her embroidered squares; Khaled (right) pays her.

Some of you may wonder how the money for the embroiderers' wages gets to Afghanistan. It has never been taken there in cash. The [Deutsch-Afghanische Initiative \(DAI\)](#) has a bank account in Kabul. Before each journey, I send a financial plan with all intended payments to the treasurer. He then transfers this amount to Kabul in euro. Normally these transfers take three days. Then Khaled gets a text message on his mobile, stating the arrival of the money, and he gets it from the bank. If there is time and the financial situation allows for it, he may wait of a better exchange rate to change the euros to Afghanis at the money-bazaar. As the money for the planned but cancelled journey had already arrived in Kabul, I asked Khaled to pay the embroiderers, this time, however, without collecting finished cloths or distributing materials.

At the start of spring, 21<sup>st</sup> March, the long winter break would have been over, and children would have started to go to school again in Afghanistan. However, like in many parts all over the world, they have to stay at home for now.



Waheda



Zarghuna

Here, in Germany and France, five events where we would have presented embroideries have already been cancelled. With this newsletter, I want to encourage you to make use of this unexpectedly inactive time and work on embroideries. While public exhibitions and fairs cannot take place, there is still the chance for you to order embroideries from [our webshop on guldusi.com](http://ourwebshop.org/guldusi.com). The orders will be processed chronologically, and, as long as the postal service is working, I will post the materials you order every second day.

With spring started, there is a new gallery of [flowers](#) coming up, a very special one. Normally, women in the villages do their embroideries independently, finding their subjects on their own. Now, some of them have been given photos of textile works by [Elsbeth Nusser-Lampe](#) and have been encouraged to be inspired by these images to create something like their own personal reproduction on that basis. The results have been so convincing that we showed them for the first time last September at the great textile event in Alsace. If you were not there, you now have the opportunity to admire and to [order](#) these small works of art.



Hamida



Yasamin

The second gallery may not be new, but it has been completely replenished. It presents [ribbons](#) whose measurement (length and breadth) are given. They may be sewn on bags, can be made into belts, for example.



Monika Häussler-Göschl

It is very easy to [incorporate](#) the embroideries into textile pieces. They can be used anywhere, for example on a T-shirt (not only for kids!), a pillow, a bag. Monika shows us how to upcycle jeans by applying an embroidery: so simple, yet so very beautiful!



Monika Többe

As exhibition have been cancelled, you may check the small selections from the last one at Guldusi:

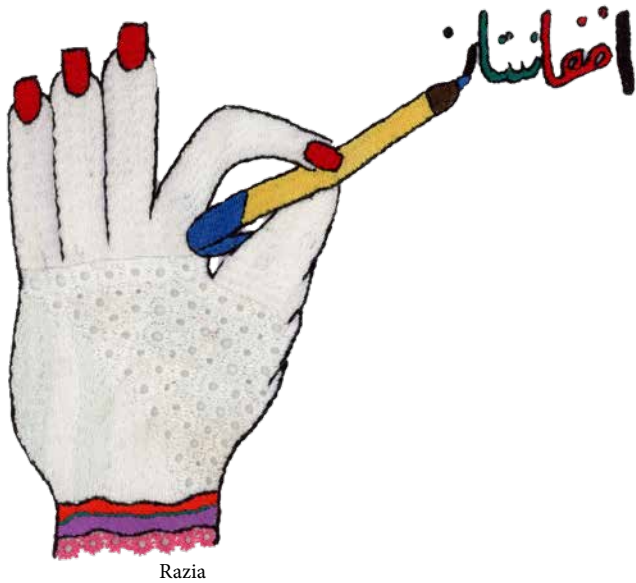
[COWandMORE](#)  
und  
[Keep your Eye on the Planet.](#)

The latter goes with a catalogue, a gallery book that may be ordered from the [Guldusi website](#).

In September, we presented the exhibition [HERBST](#) (“Autumn”) in Bavaria; you can find the respective works now up on the Guldusi website.



Ursula Brenner



The competition [HAND in HAND](#), whose first presentation is planned for September 2021, is awaiting your creativity. Have you found a motif in our hands gallery to inspire you yet? You can find the [Requirements of Participation](#) on the website – registration will be possible in a few weeks, only online.

As I intend to travel to Afghanistan as soon as possible, I have already made plans and want to present a possible project to you. Zakera, one of the embroiderers, is very good at portraits. Basicalla, she invents her images herself, but we have experimented a bit, too. A Guldusi fan had given us a photo, asking for it to be turned into an embroidery. Look at the result! Now I suggest accepting orders. Who is ready to embark on this adventure?



Zakera

I wish you all the best in this disconcerting situation, which, at any rate, is still immensely safer than in Afghanistan.

Best wishes

Pascale

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