

HOW I DID IT: SANDRA MULLANEY

*'How doodles become a
'calligraphic' piece' by
Sandra Mullaney*

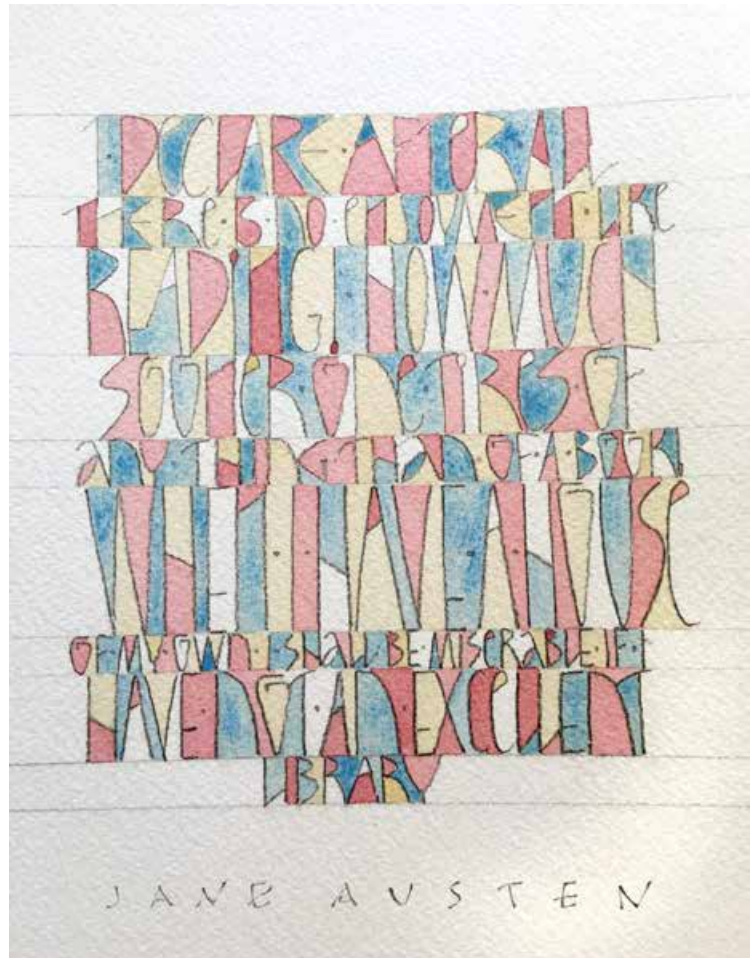
I was asked to write a brief outline of how I created a piece that I had brought along to the Show and Tell at the Guild's March meeting. Due to the covid lockdown and no Quillo in April – here it is at last!

I am a great doodler and often sit in front of the TV doodling in the evening. Some of the best things I have created have been accidental doodles though they've usually been done on cheap paper so not really of display quality, but they are lots of fun.

The two pieces shown were done in a similar way. The Jane Austen piece was written in pencil on 300gsm medium watercolour paper. However, I can't remember the brand. Letters are mono line and coloured with a brush and watercolour paints. Legibility was not a focus for either piece. I just enjoy the play of fitting letters together.

I'm pretty sure that the script was influenced by a workshop I did in the UK about 9 years ago, but I'm ashamed to say that I can't remember who it was presented by and I cannot locate my notes for the workshop.

The second piece was again a doodling piece. It was produced on



300gsm hot pressed watercolour paper. Writing was done with a fineliner pen and colour added using coloured pencils. My husband wrote me a poem for our 30th wedding anniversary; the poem is composed of three verses with text lines of various lengths, some very short and others quite long. I was struggling to write it out in a way that I was happy with; so having letters that I could squeeze or expand, rotate and shrink



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seemed a practical way of fitting the text together to try and achieve some sort of balance. Again legibility was not the focus here. I'm not unhappy with the texture produced in either piece but I'm not sure that this script and layout is right for my poem. Neither piece is finished; the second piece contains only one verse of the three. Having abandoned it for several years, it is now my goal to find a script and layout that I am happy with and finally complete my poem.

Gaye's article in a previous Quillo outlining her thoughts and planning process to produce a final piece, and Barb's presentation on the planning process Ann Hechle used have both inspired and helped me, giving me some starting points to think about. I'm mollified by that fact that Ann Hechle took 10 years to finish one of her pieces, I'm currently at 7 years for this piece!

Written by,
Sandra Mullaney

