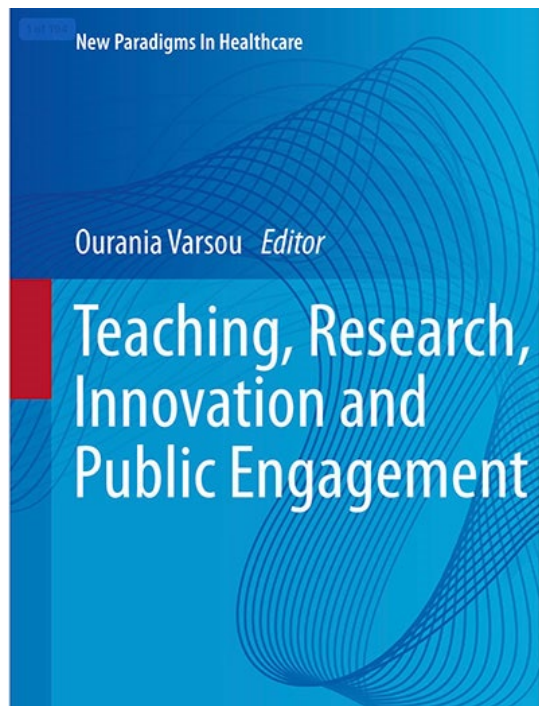




Chapter 12 The Fabric of the Human Body

Janet Philp and Joan Smith

Embedded in the tradition of sewing samplers, Cath Janes uses embroidery as a challenging, contemplative act that also allows her to express her knowledge of anatomy, gained from hands-on experience. (Fig. 12.13)

'I started stitching anatomy several years ago while recovering from surgery to help rectify my Bell's Palsy. I already enjoyed sewing but it struck me that the muscle fibres in my face could be perfectly replicated as straight stitches..... I love depicting anatomy in thread because it combines my love of anatomy and slow stitching. It also creates such tactile results. Bobbly French knots perfectly replicate fat and gland surfaces and straight stitches make beautifully lean and smooth muscles, for example. It's also a joy to be challenged to replicate uniquely biological surfaces with what can be an unforgiving medium with a limited colour palette'.⁴

Fig. 12.13 Hand embroidery of the human heart. An intricate anatomically correct heart which hints at the glossy surface of the real organ, embroidered by Cath Janes at Kraken Creations www.krakencreations.co.uk. It was produced using DMC thread on calico, is on a 9-inch hoop and consists of straight and split stitches as well as French knots, often in single strands of thread

