

THE BATIKGUILD



Views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Batik Guild.

Editor - Fiona Stanley

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This has been another busy and fun edition to put together, and it is exciting to see everything that is happening to further the reach of batik across the world. The Batik Guild turned 40 on 12 June, and there were get-togethers and a flurry of messages that day. The celebrations continue with an online exhibition, a new website, a gathering in France and an extra edition of the magazine. It is lovely to feel part of such an established and inspirational community, and great to see it pushing forward more actively than ever. In addition to the collective guild activities, the news sections in the magazine always leave me dazzled with the amount of individual activities and achievements.

We are very lucky to have so many opportunities to learn from each other. We're trying to reflect this in the magazine with a series of technical articles – this month on wax. I loved our chair Jonathan's quote 'wax is a deeply personal matter' – never a truer word spoken! Sorayya Martin's wonderful article reflects this very personal and mindful connection to wax in the batik process.

I hope you enjoy this July edition and please get in touch if you have ideas for articles for the next edition.

Submitting articles

The email address for magazine articles and correspondence is **editorbatikguild@gmail.com**. Try and keep articles to 100-200 words if they are short intimations, and longer articles to about 500-600 words. Send as word documents or simply as text embedded in your email, as links and other file types can prove tricky to open and/or get caught in spam filters. To be suitable for printing, images must be 1MB or larger – please send as separate attachments, rather than embedded in an article. All images remain copyright of the author/artist. Where images or artwork are the work of a third party, you must obtain their permission to publish before submitting.

To ensure the best quality publication, the editor reserves the right to shorten, alter, omit or keep submissions for possible future use. But please get in touch if you have any questions – every article is different and I'm always happy to work with you to see what works best.

Deadlines - Articles, images and other items for the magazine should reach the editor not later than 1 February for the March issue, 1 June for the July issue and 1 October for the November issue. The deadline for the special 'extra' 40th year edition is 1 November.

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FRONT COVER:

Brigitte Gustafsson
Stileben with Japanese Lanterns
 54 x 54.5 cm, batik on cotton using fibre reactive dyes

BACK COVER:

Ria van Dijk
Water, land and more, America
 135 x 112 cm



For information about the Batik Guild, and for contact details, please visit our website at

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Advertising rates - £50 full page, £25 half page, £12.50 quarter page. 20% reduction for three issues. Guild members may advertise free of charge **where space permits** up to a maximum of half a page.

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Hungarian batik and the diplomacy of art by Christina Szabó

I have been fortunate this spring with two exhibition openings in swift succession, each carrying its own particular weight. In April, the Music Hall Gallery in Debrecen hosted my Christinabatikart group's exhibition titled 'Batik Mysticism'. These artists share not only technique but a conviction that wax-resist painting belongs in the discourse of contemporary fine art, not merely in the ethnographic cabinet.

Then in May, something more intimate 'Generation 80' at the Laffert Château, Dunaharaszti, where I exhibited alongside my father. To share walls with one's parent is a conversation no words can replicate: decades of divergence made visible, yet held together by wax and pigment.

At both openings, HE Ambassador Penny D Herasati of Indonesia (a true devotee of batik) delivered the inaugural address beside the local Mayors. Her support, and that of the embassy, remains a gift I do not take lightly.

My mission remains unchanged: to carry the love of batik across Hungary and, in time, across Europe so that more and more people should encounter this luminous, patient technique, and recognise in it something worthy of the gallery wall.



Christina and the Ambassador at Mysticism of Batik Exhibition



Christina, her father and the Ambassador at the opening of Generation 80



Christina and the Ambassador examine batiks at Generation 80

Batik Workshop and Exhibition – Serbia

by Nela Horvat

In April 2026, artist Nela Horvat presented a solo exhibition of batik works at the Cultural Centre in Kovin, Serbia. Conceived as more than a presentation of finished pieces, the exhibition was expanded through an accompanying workshop, creating a dynamic dialogue between artwork and process.

The workshop, held within the exhibition space itself, transformed the gallery into a place of active creation. Surrounded by completed works, participants were invited to enter the structure of batik — not only as a technique, but as a way of thinking and building an image.

Due to strong interest, the number of participants exceeded initial expectations, confirming the growing relevance of batik within both educational and contemporary artistic contexts. Through guided practice, participants engaged with the fundamental stages of batik on silk: from preparing and stretching the fabric, to drawing, applying hot wax with tjanting tools and brushes, developing layered colour, and embracing the characteristic crackle effects. Particular emphasis was placed on the

