



# **meshwards**

by Maria Damon





dusie kollektiv

# meshwards

by Maria Damon

\* a dust/e-chap  
[www.dusie.org](http://www.dusie.org)



DUSIE

2011

*dusie kollektiv*

The back and front covers are baby blankets, for Baia Amihan Tinsley and Noka Treuer respectively.

© Maria Damon 2011

*[www.dusie.org](http://www.dusie.org)*





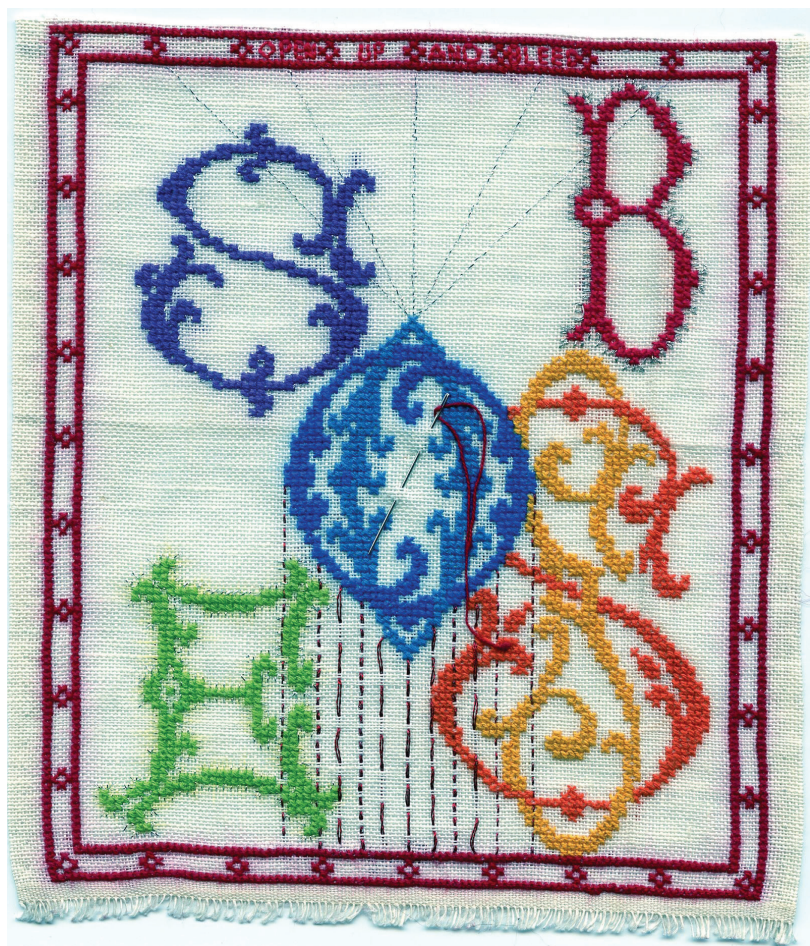




### **Terra Divisa/Terra Divina (T/E/A/R)**

In 2008 Iain Biggs invited me and others to respond to his book *Debatable Lands* Vol. 1 (Wild Conversations Press). In that book he told the story of a female bard, Màiri nighean Alisdair Ruaidh, who requested that after her death she be buried face down, so that her dirtfilled mouth would be stopped from uttering wickedness for eternity. A harrowing allegory of female artistry under calamitous geopolitical circumstances, it reminded me of *The Scarlet Letter*.



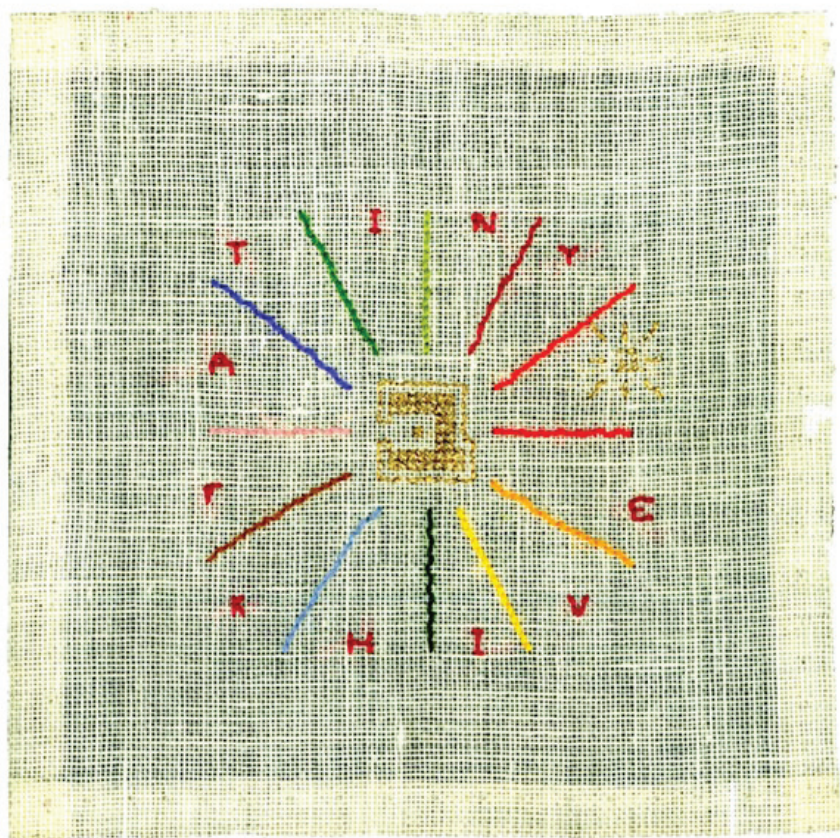


**Open Up and Bleed** is for Iggy Pop (James N. Osterberg, Jr.). Iggy has a serious self-sabotaging streak but also a strong libidinized spirituality. There's blood pouring down his chest and silver ejaculate radiating upwards. The word is "Obsess." You can't really see it but some of the letters are edged in silver and of course I left the needle in the center to give him a choice.



**Text/Textile/Exile**  
My Bible story.





### **Tiny Arkhive**

The letter “B” is a home, a tiny archive, and a buzzing hive of luminescent activity. It’s for Adeena Karasick, a Kabbalah scholar and performance poet, in honor of her poem “The Wall.”





### **Breathe My Dears**

Made at Thich Nhat Hanh's community, Plum Village, for the nuns and visitors. Thầy (TNH) speaks continually about breathing, and it never gets old. Aspire, inspire, respire.



### **Dreams I and II**

Right after the US invaded Iraq, poet Stephen Vincent wrote on the Poetics listserv that he dreamed that we all embroidered the word POETRY on our sleeves as an anti-war protest. Poet Nick Piombino responded in a discussion of artists' responsibilities in times of crisis. These were for them.







X(exoxial)-stitch, for mIEKAL aND



### **Spore-form**

Nada Gordon wrote of a memory, when Barrett Watten was her teacher decades ago, of his giving her and other students a ride somewhere after class and telling them, “I’m having the hardest time getting you to understand what form is.” So what is it, I wondered, but never asked.



### **Re[ve]al Codes, Real Ode for Reality (Rita Raley)**

My dear friend and former colleague inspired me with her new media scholarship and general good humor and intelligence.





### **Evolving Poetics**

My BFF Betsy Franco and I talk a lot about what exactly is metaphor. We can't quite figure it out. She wrote a YA novel called *Metamorphosis*, based on Ovid's poems. I was at Plum Village, where Thây was talking a lot about butterflies.



**Mark's Now.**

For my poetry co-conspirator Mark Nowak when he came out as a Marxist.



A few years ago my mother said she wanted respect for Christmas. She got this (instead), but took it in stride. The heart and crown are typical Danish motifs.





### **Cobza, Maya, Yayli Tanbur**

I'm a fan of Alan Sondheim's online codework, but was astonished by his musical virtuosity on a range of stringed instruments with exotic and appealing names. His partner Azure Carter wrote a beautiful little song based on one of his poems, "All my work is maya..."





**EM, for the beautiful photographer Emma Bernstein**

I used phrases from Charles and Felix Bernstein's talks at Emma's memorial service. Felix told me that he got "The beautiful room is not empty" from Kafka.

