



SARAH WALKER
ARTSHADES
STITCHED PAPER LAMPSHADES

Background Information

Sarah Walker ArtShades is a contemporary lampshade maker based in Malvern in Worcestershire. The company was founded in 1999 to bridge the gap between the traditional shaped-silk lampshades and cream fabric hard coolie shades on offer at the time.

Sarah Walker uses the traditional technique of reverse appliqué in a contemporary way by using plant-fibre paper in place of fabric. She layers, machine stitches and hand-cuts, with small scissors, the papers to create colourful and striking designs.

Sarah offers various shade shapes but specialises in half-shades with which she launched the company because they were impossible to find in the UK at the time. Her range now includes drum shades, wall shades and candle shades.

Much of Sarah's work is made to commission – the customer choosing the colours and style to complement their own décor. She also produces limited edition ranges, which she sells through craft/design outlets, exhibitions with the Worcestershire Guild of Designer Craftsmen and by mail order.

Sarah is keen to promote the concept of commissioning a craftsman. She believes that few people realise how easy it is to have something tailor-made that is a unique and meaningful.

*Reverse appliqué is believed to have been developed by the Kuna Indians of the San Blas islands off Panama, where it is still used to decorate the traditional blouses or 'mola' worn by the women. It was also popular with the American settlers when stitching their highly patterned quilts. Layers of fabric are stitched together and areas between the stitching are subsequently cut away to reveal the layers beneath.