

Sylvia shows off her style at top Japanese festival

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TEXTILE scenes created from fabric off-cuts and old kimonos have been flown 5,000 miles from a Dovercourt studio to Japan for a world-renowned festival.

Sylvia Paul, 58, paints and creates mixed-media collage work from her Empire Road home.

Her success has spread from the East of England to the Far East with the artist now being asked to feature in the Tokamachi Quilting Festival in Japan with her own four-day exhibition later this month.

She said: "My daughter-in-law is Japanese and I've had a couple of exhibitions in Japan we've set up ourselves."

"Primarily I'm a painter, but the last time, which was in 2013, I

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sent six textiles pieces which was quite a new thing for me at the time and I sold five of them.

"Some people came and saw the exhibition from Tokamachi where they hold a big quilting festival every year.

"They invited me last year to show a very few pieces and this year they have asked me to have my own exhibition."

The festival takes over the city of Tokamachi with exhibitions of work at shops and businesses as well as larger venues.

Sylvia has sent more than 30 pieces of work, including cushion covers and jackets.

She said: "The festival takes over the whole city."

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From North East Essex to the Far East - Sylvia Paul in her studio at her home in Dovercourt. Picture: STEVE BRADING (2)

Sylvia uses silk remnants from a Suffolk factory to create textile pieces, but has also been given old silk kimonos from her daughter-in-law's family to use in her work.

She said: "My daughter-in-law's family are helping with my

exhibitions. I couldn't do it without them. They've been giving me these old kimonos as well, some are plain and some are really nice and ornate.

"Every kimono is hand stitched and it's just so nice using these old fabrics.

"Depending on the size it can take me a week to make each piece, with the biggest piece costing £1,200."

The exhibition runs from September 25 to 28. For more information, visit sylviapaul.com

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