fantasy ma
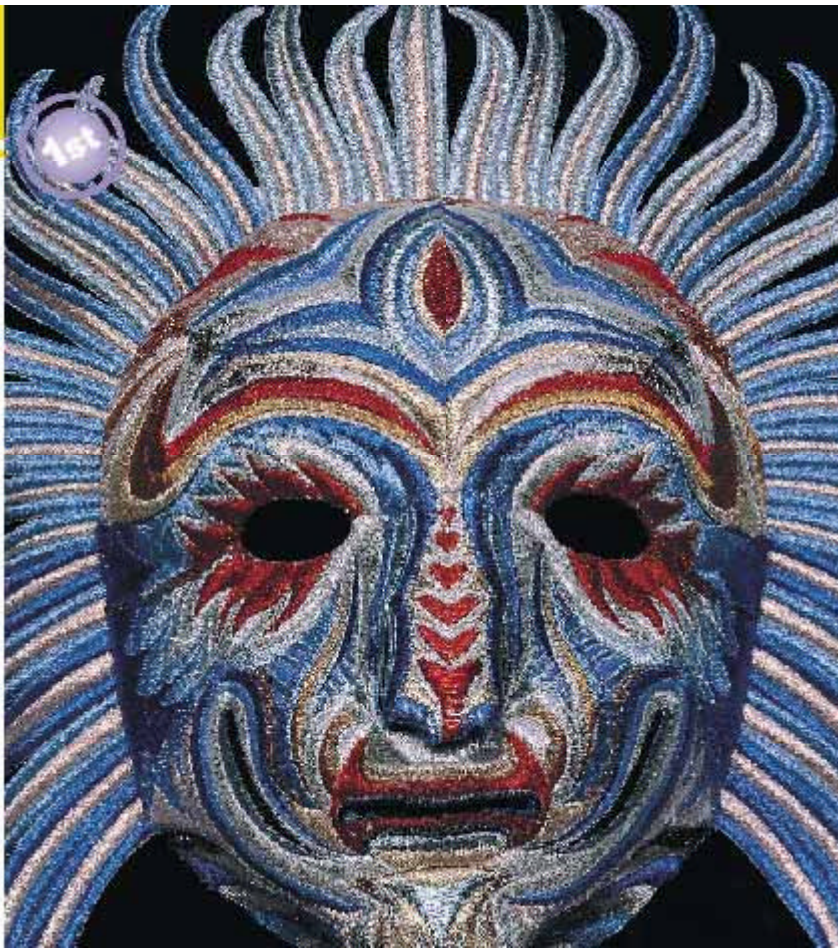
**Loredana Mariani and
    Antonello Ascione
AMG Progetti Industriali di
    Antonello Ascione
Naples, Italy**

First place in this category also the coveted distinction of being th year's Grand Prize winner. The lif size, wearable fantasy mask was c ceived and realized by Loredana Mariani and Antonello Ascione. N ani used diverse digitizing technic such as point-to-point punching w acute attention to the orientation c the lines and how the stitching wo conform to the uneven surface, to weave this exceedingly elaborate creation.

The colorful disguise used 11 m tallic threads and required 55 colo changes. It took about five hours f artwork, four hours of punching a six hours of embroidery on a mult head machine to assemble this 356,489-stitch "*mask*erpiece."

dreidl

Nancy Sedar Sherman

the rooster c

Nancy Sedar Designs, Denver

This unique piece was inspired by a simple phone call from a gift shop asking if Sedar Sherman's husband would be interested in creating an embroidered dreidl for a show. He was too busy, so Nancy stepped in and sewed the traditional Hanukkah top on broadcloth using thread from Madeira USA Ltd. and Gunold USA Inc. The four-sided toy required 45,859 stitches, seven colors and 42 color changes on a Tajima TMEX-C1201 machine. A nonwoven cutaway backing was used.

"The first attempts took two to three weeks to design, research and coordinate," Sedar Sherman says. "Now, if I have all the parts, I can make one in a day."

Chad Matthias
Liberty Embroidery, Madison, N.C.

Starting with a clip art book of old engravings, Chad Matthias made some minor modifications and created the Rooster Café name to prod this third place finish.

"It didn't have much color, so I added some to punch it up a little," Matthias says. "I reduced it and put it on an apron to make it look like was a real business."

The image was embroidered on a Barudan 6-head machine using Rob Anton thread and 720 tearaway backing. It contains 34,838 stitches, about two hours to digitize and an hour and a half to sew.