

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6492 FELTMAKING: THE BASICS

Tutor: HEATHER BELCHER

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is an introduction to the hugely versatile process of handmade wool felt. Learn the basics of mixing colours with loose wool fibres, creating marks, making felt balls and complete a small seamless purse. The tutor will have a wide range of samples to inspire you.

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- prepare and blend coloured wool fibres for felting
- make small pieces of flat felt incorporating simple patterns and mark making
- create texture in the felt
- make small solid felt balls
- use a resist technique to create seamless purse

Although this is aimed at beginners, if you have a little previous experience of feltmaking you will be able to explore techniques and ideas and pick up new skills and diverse ways of approaching the subject. Skills will be reinforced by producing a series of experimental samples to achieve a high standard of design and craftsmanship.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

To succeed you should be able to follow simple instructions which support demonstrations, hand-outs and for health and safety information, and will be invited to take part in group discussion.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Heather Belcher is a textile artist working with handmade felt processes. Her work appeared in the international felt exhibition 'In Motion' which toured Germany, France and Finland throughout 2013 – 2014. She is a member of the renowned 62 Group of Textile Artists and of the Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery in London. She has more than twenty years of experience teaching felt courses at all levels of ability. She has travelled to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to study traditional felt techniques both with the British Council and with the support of a Research and Development Grant from Arts Council England.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 7 October

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course.

Other days: Saturday 8 October

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue

Other days continued: Saturday 8 October

12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 9 October

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Please bring a photograph or example of an actual piece of felt that you admire.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Additional charge:

On this course the tutor will supply many of the materials. This will include a wide range of coloured merino wool tops*. This cost for what you use should be paid to the tutor before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

You are welcome to bring any of the above, if you have them:

Essential:

Notebook, plastic bag for taking wet work home, olive oil soap

*Optional:

If you already have merino wool tops, you are welcome to bring this along to use on the course.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.