

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

3D7030 HAND KNITTING – DESIGNING FROM NATURE

Tutor: SASHA KAGAN

Dates: 3 DAYS MONDAY 5 JUNE – THURSDAY 8 JUNE

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Taking inspiration from nature, learn how to interpret leaves and flowers into design motifs for hand knitting. After a tour of the gardens you will graph out your design and then use Sasha's intarsia technique to knit a swatch. This will then be developed using applications such as repeats, half drops, alternative colour ways and use of alternative yarns and textures. Expand your knowledge and understanding of hand knit design and processes for future independent projects which translate ideas and images into hand knitted fabric.

You will learn how to hone down the essence of an image in order to translate ideas into motifs for hand knitting. This is done by gathering leaves and flowers, looking at each in turn to extract the main characteristics of each specimen then drawing directly on to graph paper. The motif is then 'squared up' taking into consideration the yarn to be used, and fine tuned into a motif. Those who have attended previous courses with Sasha are welcome to take design skills to a stage further and cover creating repeats and different colourways.

While learning Sasha's intarsia technique for hand knitting, you will knit up the initial swatch from one or more of the motifs you have designed. Hands on technical advice – how to hold yarn in L and R hands and feed in yarn alternately to produce a 'woven in' knitted fabric, will be covered.

You will then develop your chosen swatch into a repeating design e.g. quarter drops, half drops, mirror images; learning basics of positioning motifs hand knitting. This will illustrate how versatile the medium is. Through this process, you will gain confidence to use your own images for hand knitting, and be equipped with the skills to hand knit your own designs opening up the possibilities of hand knitting as a vehicle to communicate ideas into fabric.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Skills development. For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills. The focus is on further developing and building of skills working towards independent practice.

You need to have basic knitting skills in stocking stitch i.e. knit and purl.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Sasha Kagan is a hand knit designer and maker of Fine Art Textiles. She trained in printmaking at The Royal College of Art and has run her own business for 40 years, while writing seven design books and teaching internationally. Her versatile repertoire of geometric, ethnic, abstract and nature inspired designs aim to give pleasure to knit and wear, her use of colour and texture immediately recognisable. Her unique hand knit pieces are in many collections and have been widely exhibited, including a display at the V&A Museum and a travelling retrospective in 2010-12 'My Life in Textiles – Four Decades of Hand Knit Design'.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Monday 5 June

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. An introduction into knitting with colour working with stripes and textures.

Other days: Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 June

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
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 up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored

Departure day: Thursday 8 June

(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 make and bring a collection of pictures/postcards/ drawings of images that you would like to interpret into knit design. Magazine tear sheets of garment shapes and small balls of their favourite yarn, knitting needles sizes 2.75 to 5mm, darning needle.

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.

Materials included in the course fee:

An inspiring collection of yarn from 4-ply to Aran weight, in wool, silk, alpaca, cotton and blends, supplied by the tutor for use on the course.

Available from the Shop:

Graph paper
Pencils, pens and rubbers
Notebook

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

A collection of images – see preparation above
Small balls of your favourite yarn
Knitting needles sizes 2.75 to 5mm
Darning needle
Scissors
Coloured pencils may be useful if you have some

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.