

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S3D07430 EXPERIMENTAL TAPESTRY WEAVING: SURFACE, TEXTURE AND FORM

Tutor: COS AHMET

Dates: 3 DAYS TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The direction of this course is to introduce alternative and experimental weaving processes and techniques to tapestry weavers who have a good working knowledge of the basics, and would like to expand their skills and broaden their repertoire.

The course focuses on the notion of woven tapestry as a sculptural form or object. Surface, texture and structure are explored in your tapestries, lending themselves to being presented as sculptural forms, moving away from the conventional flat woven / rectangular wall-based tapestries. You will gain new skills to produce textured sculptural weaves that you can develop further in your own practice or studios.

Tapestries are constructed into irregular shapes, adding textures and surfaces in a variety of techniques, such as wrapping, knotting, double cloth and pulled warp, to give extra dimension to your work, to manipulate and produce sculpted forms which can then be exhibited as free standing objects or as three-dimensional surface weaves displayed in a manner of other ways.

The first session will include a discussion of ideas, forms and textures that can be produced using these methods of weaving. The tutor will have examples of their own work to show the possibilities, and will demonstrate the various techniques and how to manipulate the warps on prepared works/frames to show to how to produce three-dimensional structures.

The course will then continue with how to start weaving the various textures, shapes and structures with continued discussion on using different wefts and warps to create different effects. As pieces are completed they will be manipulated into desired shapes and forms.

You can anticipate creating approximately three small weavings, starting with the basics and moving on to experimentation with the techniques using your own ideas. Students will work individually, with a 'display' for discussion of works produced in a group crit at the end.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practice. You need to be able to confidently prepare a tapestry warp on a frame and have a working knowledge of basic tapestry weaving techniques.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Cos Ahmet is a fine artist who studied Constructed Textiles at Middlesex University, specialising in woven tapestry, and combines it with a range of disciplines in his practice that include works on paper, sculpture and object making. He has exhibited internationally, and received the Theo Moorman Award for Weavers in 2016.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Tuesday 7 November

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. Introductions and discussion about the kinds of forms that can be produced, examples of tutor's works and a short demonstration of techniques covered.

Other days: Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 November

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: Friday 10 November

(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:

To think about shapes, forms and textures you may like to explore weaving.

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:

The course fee includes the cost of warp yarn supplied by the Craft Shop.

Additional charge:

Some additional warp and weft yarns will be supplied by the tutor for sampling experimental weaving techniques. The cost of what you use should be paid to the tutor, by cash or cheque, by the end of the course as requested.

Available from the Shop:

Wooden tapestry frame **

One or two bobbins

Two G-clamps

Scissors

Warp yarn – in small amounts

** frames can be borrowed during the course, but if you wish to take it home they cost around £14.

You can also purchase additional warp and weft yarn from Weaversbazaar who will visit with their pop-up shop on the first morning of the workshop.

Materials you should bring with you:

Measuring tape

Pen/notepad and document folder for hand-outs

Kitchen fork or tapestry beater for weaving, if you have one

Any warp and weft yarns that you would like to experiment with / like to use

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.