

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW07626 HAND KNITTING – USING COLOUR, FROM INSPIRATION TO TECHNIQUE

Tutor: ALISON ELLEN

Dates: LONG WEEKEND FRIDAY 2 MARCH – MONDAY 5 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course aims to improve your awareness and confidence in working with colour in designing knitted items, and to extend experience of different stitches for different effects. It is suitable for anyone from basic knitters to more advanced.

We will start with a simple exercise to help translate colours seen from source material which inspires you into designs in hand knitting. We will analyse how the colours work together, and how to simplify this range of colours into a design. We all have different colour preferences, and these can be developed individually, the aim being to develop awareness of how colours work together. Beginning by using coloured yarns wound onto card to analyse different proportions and relationships between colours seen, these are then used as a basis for knitting.

Different knitted stitches, some very simple, can be used to mix colours in knitting, even when used in simple stripes, for example garter- and moss-stitch. We will explore these, and slip stitch patterns, then progress to 2- or more-coloured knitting, such as Fairisle and Intarsia techniques, and how knitting in different directions can be used as a design tool.

The first full day is spent on set exercises. These may continue on for the next days to finish with a collection of samples you can develop later, or you can follow your own direction guided by the tutor towards specific designs. If you are an experienced knitter, you will be encouraged to experiment further with technique and ideas. Always aiming for the simplest way of producing an idea, and on improving your knitting technique, you will be encouraged to work at your own pace, concentrating either on trying many ideas or working towards one project.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

Is there anything a potential student needs to be able to do to succeed on this course?

You will need to be able to do basic knitting stitches; cast on and off, knit and purl.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alison has been designing and making hand knits with her own dyed yarn for over 30 years, led by a fascination for exploring the technique, structure and materials. She exhibits and teaches in the UK and abroad, and has published four books on knitting.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 2 March

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 3 and Sunday 4 March

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: Monday 5 March

(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:

Begin to look around you at colours: in town – or landscape, pictures, objects, and bring anything you could use as 'source material', for example a postcard or picture, preferably printed, not on a phone. Basic knitting skills are all that is needed.

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:

The tutor will bring a range of her own yarns for sampling, for which there will be a small charge of £3 if you use these.

Available from the Shop:

Notebooks, pens etc, scissors

Available from the tutor:

Yarn for sampling, knitting needles and crochet hooks to borrow

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

You will need notebooks, and knitting yarn in as wide a range of colours as possible. Please bring a range of knitting needles including double-ended or circular needles, and crochet hooks, bring whatever you have.

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.