

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D07496 AFTER BORO – JAPANESE HAND STITCHED TEXTILES

Tutor: JANICE GUNNER

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER – FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER

### JAPANESE WEEK

This course takes place during the Japanese Week and is one of a group of courses focusing on inspiration from Japanese Art both traditional and contemporary with a mix of tutors who are either native to Japan or whose working practise is influenced by Japanese aesthetics. As part of this week additional talks will feature by tutors and visiting artists, giving insight into their creative practice and teaching. Studio visits to the other courses will also be encouraged.

You could also choose to arrive early on Sunday December 3 to watch or participate in (£10 charge) a traditional tea ceremony held at 3pm and 4.30pm in the Old Library (see [www.westdean.org.uk/events](http://www.westdean.org.uk/events) for further information and to book).

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Boro is the Japanese word for rags or tatters. Japanese country folk repaired and patched their bed coverings and clothes out of necessity. Thread bare areas were lovingly patched and darned to extend the life of the futon cover or clothes to make them last longer. Sometimes they bought precious scraps from travelling traders to supplement their own. Many of these textiles are now sought after pieces of art to collectors worldwide.

Westerners admire as the most interesting side of the work, what is in reality, the wrong side! All the texture from the scraps and repairs tell a story of the fabrics, the designs, the weaves etc. Boro often have Sashiko stitching on them, not the intricate geometric design we associate with that today, but simple large stitches to join and strengthen the weaker fabrics.

Expect to learn about Boro through the tutor's pieces of Japanese Boro cloth and a power point presentation of work she has seen both in Japan and the UK.

Taking inspiration from these pieces, and a demonstration on design, you will work on hand stitching a small sample piece of your own design using a pack of vintage Japanese Indigo fabrics before moving on to your own individual projects using your own fabrics. You could make a Boro style patchwork cushion, wall hanging or throw using combinations of new and recycled fabrics, which are stitched by hand using simple Japanese Sashiko stitching to add strength and texture.

You will be shown how to stitch the work together using darned and patching techniques and how to quilt using simple Sashiko quilting. You can expect to leave with a knowledge of Boro textiles, design and stitching techniques, a finished sample and other work finished on the course or to complete at home.

### 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.

To succeed on this course you need to be able to use scissors and be able to undertake simple sewing techniques.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Janice is a textile artist, quilter, teacher and author of *Shibori for Textile Artists*. She specialises in Japanese textile techniques including Shibori dyeing and Sashiko quilting and leads textile tours to Japan for a specialist travel company. Recent work has included the use of hand-dyed Shibori fabrics, vintage Japanese kimono fabrics and the relationship between mathematics and craft. Janice is a former President of The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles. Her work is exhibited internationally and is in private and museum collections.

### TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Sunday 3 December

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 – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b> Induction. Introductory lecture and textile handling session plus Q&A.

#### Other days: Monday 4 to Thursday 7 December

9.15am	Morning classes start – 9.30 Powerpoint presentation in studio/av room
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 8 December

(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:

Collect fabrics to bring for the course – see materials list below.

### 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 some of the materials this includes a pack of vintage Japanese indigo fabrics for the small sample piece, this charge of not more than £20 should be paid to the tutor before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

### Available from the Shop:

Light weight cotton lawn or muslin fabric

Embroidery needles, pins and a small range of standard sewing cotton

**Available from the tutor:**

In addition to the sample pack, Janice will have some extra vintage Japanese cotton scraps and pieces to sell during the course and will also provide Sashiko thread and needles for sale too.

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

**Materials List**

Assorted scraps and pieces of indigo dyed fabrics of different weights and textures (not denim, it's a bit too thick to hand stitch!) or Japanese type fabrics such as Lecien or Stoff in blues. If you attended my indigo dyeing course bring some of those fabrics. If you have any old fabrics with tears or repairs bring those too.

½ metre of lightweight cotton lawn or muslin to use as a foundation

Sashiko thread in off white, white or blue

Hand sewing kit, including fabric scissors, Sashiko or embroidery needles and pins

Note pad and pen

Digital camera

**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.