

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

LW7317 BLOCKED HATS IN FELT

Tutor: ELLIE VALLERINI

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 24 AUGUST – SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

On this 3-day course, you will learn the traditional millinery techniques used to create a blocked hat or headpiece. Working with felt, you will progress from raw material through blocking, wiring, edging, setting petersham, refining the shape, and trimming. The course will consist of perfecting the series of techniques, experimenting with balance and design, and refining the finished piece. By the end of the 3 days, you will have completed a trimmed blocked hat to your own original design. In addition, the skills gained on the course will enable you to pursue millinery interests on your own with a solid foundation of couture millinery techniques and an increased confidence in their design skills.

Materials and techniques covered:

- Blocking a 1 or 2 piece blocked hat or head piece
- Wiring and setting a blocked shape
- Adapting a blocked shape to achieve a design
- Edging techniques – turned, bias binding and petersham ribbon
- Sewing a head ribbon and sizing a hat
- Creating trimmings, including sculptural felt techniques
- Demonstration on arrangement, flow, balance, and assembly
- Finishing

Each session will be a mixture of demonstrations and individual work. The tutor will begin by introducing/explaining the materials and general techniques. As you begin to develop your own designs, you will do more independent work. The tutor will circulate to give individual advice and tutorials. The course will end with a brief presentation of the finished pieces and review of techniques used to create them.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

Basic hand sewing skills are needed to succeed on this course.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Ellie Vallerini is a London based couture milliner. Working as part of the John Boyd team in Knightsbridge she has extensive knowledge of hat making and design using a wide range of materials and techniques, both traditional and contemporary.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 24 August

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. The course will start with an overview of the techniques and materials used in the making of blocked hats, as well as an inspirational slideshow of blocked hats.

Other days: Friday 25 and Saturday 26 August

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: Sunday 27 August

(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:

You are encouraged to collect images of headpieces which interest you and/or sketch design ideas. If you have any specific materials which you would like to incorporate into your hat, bring these too.

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 providing all millinery materials to complete one hat. (If you use a larger quantity of felt or trimmings, you may need to pay the tutor a little more depending what you use.)

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

Basic sewing tools: thimble, cotton thread, pins, needles, scissors, tape measure, chalk

Jewellery pliers if you have any

Apron

Any specific materials you wish to incorporate into your headpiece, including beads, feathers or trimmings.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.