

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S2D08001 WEAVING, PURE AND SIMPLE

Tutors: ANN RICHARDS AND DEIRDRE WOOD

Date: 2 DAYS SUNDAY 8 JULY – TUESDAY 10 JULY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

In weaving, various textures, shapes and colour effects can be created through the interplay between the structure of interlacing warp and weft, and the properties of the yarns. In this course we will be using simple equipment to explore these possibilities.

You will learn how to make a warp and set up a rigid heddle backstrap loom, which can be used to weave narrow strips of cloth suitable for a variety of items, including bracelets, bags, table mats and wall-hangings. During the course you will experiment with various techniques and materials, including different colour combinations and yarns of different thickness and stiffness, and you will also discover how the qualities of cloth can be altered by wet finishing.

By the end of the course you will have a good sense of the general principles of weaving and also have a range of sample pieces that could form the basis for the design of finished items.

This course is particularly suitable for beginners, as it gives a basic introduction to weaving, without any of the complex equipment that is normally needed. But it may also appeal to those who already have some experience of weaving on conventional looms, but would like to experience the simplicity and portability of the rigid heddle backstrap loom.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

Please note weaving is a physical, but rewarding process and this method involves fixing a loom around your back to weave.

ABOUT YOUR TUTORS:

Ann Richards trained at UCA, Farnham, where she later also taught for many years. She works with high-twist yarns to create flexible, textured fabrics and textile jewellery. Ann uses high-twist yarns to create flexible, textured fabrics and textile jewellery. Over the past twenty years she has given workshops in the UK and internationally and is the author of "Weaving Textiles That Shape Themselves".

Deirdre Wood. After training at UCA, Farnham, Deirdre has brought a fresh approach to the ancient technique of strip weaving, twisting her strips to give the fabric a third dimension. Recently she has begun to use fibres with contrasting physical properties to create dramatic curved strips and circles designed for architectural settings.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 8 July

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| 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 |

Arrival day continued: Sunday 8 July

8.00pm–9.00pm First teaching session – **attendance is an essential part of the course.**
An introduction to the basic principles of weaving, with a demonstration of the rigid heddle backstrap loom. We will also examine a variety of textiles, including traditional pieces that have been assembled from narrow strips of fabric. These textiles will remain on show throughout the course, for further study.

Other days: Monday 9 July

Day 2: You will set up your own backstrap loom and weave sample pieces, experimenting with a wide range of different materials. Towards the end of the day you will probably be ready to set up a second warp, to weave on the final day.

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| 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: Tuesday 10 July

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

You may choose either to continue trying out ideas, or to begin working towards a finished item. Although it may not be possible to complete this in a day, the weaving kit is included in the course fee, so you will be able continue working on it at home.

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| 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 |

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:

Weaving materials and equipment to make a simple backstrap loom are provided in the course fee.

Please bring:

Scissors, pins

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.