

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW08493: HAND SEWN NARRATIVE TEXTILES

Tutor: JANET BOLTON

Dates: LONG WEEKEND FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY – MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course aims to introduce you to the idea of working directly with the chosen fabrics to create a composition for a hand stitched picture – rather than working from design drawings. This spontaneous approach allows for a wonderful freedom and can be exciting to the last minute by combining design, material and technique throughout. You can arrive with an idea in mind, or with a completely open mind as to subject matter.

During the introduction the tutor will discuss many different sources of inspiration, using her own work as examples. She will demonstrate various practical ways of starting a composition, and demonstrate the simple cutting, placing and hand sewing techniques needed.

You will discover the importance of the choice of suitable materials for different purposes, the use of stitch as a drawn line and the excitement that can be added by the introduction of a carefully selected “found object”. Sometimes the fabrics themselves will hold a personal memory and significance, this will enhance the discovery of the joy of ‘following your own star’ of having no set rules, to play, which is of course serious stuff! You will also find that you spend more time thinking about and accessing the composition than you spend actually sewing the different elements into place. Throughout this process there are many opportunities to develop the original germ of an idea, to let the piece take on its own identity. Personal help will be given at all stages.

You will complete one piece of work and hopefully have ideas and beginnings for others, while gaining confidence and enjoyment in making your own work.

Advice will also be given with final presentation and framing. The course will finish with a group review.

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 practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Janet Bolton exhibits and teaches worldwide. She has work in public collections, including the Crafts Council and the British Council, and has published several books (for both adults and children) about her work and working practice.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 1 February

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
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. A hands-on session exploring and discussing colour directly with fabrics is planned.

Other days: Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 February

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: Students may work on in the workshop (until 10pm) if they wish. This session is untutored, but the tutor may be available at times to offer advice.

Departure day: Monday 4 February

(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, please vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Please bring images for inspiration (the tutor will also bring books, fabrics etc.).

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.

Available from the Shop:

Coloured threads, sewing machine reels (a limited selection)

Available from the tutor:

The tutor will bring some bags of bits and pieces of fabric from which people can 'extend their palette'

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

General sewing kit (i.e. pins, needles, scissors etc)

Approximately ½ metre of curtain lining, calico or similar material for overall backing

Coloured threads, sewing machine reels, cotton or polyester

Fabrics – as wide a variety as possible of small pieces of cottons, silks, poly cottons, fine wools – the important factor being that they should not be too heavy in weight (thin enough to turn under without too much bulk)

Any buttons, beads, broken necklaces etc

Any pictures with simple imagery as personal sources of inspiration

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.