

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S3D08516: SILK SCARVES – DEVELOPING PATTERN

Tutor: ISABELLA WHITWORTH

Dates: 3 DAYS MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY – THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

We all love pattern – it represents order and structure. Pattern can be mathematically ordered – or liberated and unstructured. The tutor will bring examples of her work and sketchbooks to explain something of the way scarf designs, which have pattern as their source, can be developed.

Pattern is an excellent entry point to the development of personal, original design on textiles. Working with vibrant steam-fixed dyes on hemmed silk scarf blanks or lengths of fabric, you can expect to create several scarves (as well as small samples), through the course. There will be guidance sessions on how to plan scarf designs, how to source and develop patterns or themes, and how to transfer working designs to scarves and fabric.

Wax, and paste resist, some shibori techniques such as folding, clamping and tying, and direct application of dyes can be explored. You will be encouraged to use different silk weights and weaves. Although you will work towards making scarves, all skills are transferable to fabric painting, or shibori work on silk fabrics.

Trial pieces are encouraged on smaller frames to make initial experiments in techniques. Wax will be applied using brushes and traditional tjantings, stamps and found objects.

During the course the tutor will briefly outline the chemistry of steam-fix dye processes on silk. The practical aspects of wax-out and steaming silks will also be demonstrated.

Anyone who doesn't feel confident about drawing, planning and creative design is very welcome on this course.

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 practise.

The course is also suitable for you if you are starting out in the medium of wax resist on silk and have a little experience but are wanting to broaden your knowledge of developing design through pattern.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Isabella Whitworth trained as an illustrator before being inspired to create resist dyed and painted textiles after travelling in Indonesia. She teaches and exhibits regularly and has been researching the history of natural dyes. She is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Monday 11 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.

Other days: Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 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: workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Thursday 14 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

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 use of pins, tapes, dyes, wax and general accessories supplied for use of the group.

Additional Charge:

You can purchase hemmed scarf blanks for final projects from the tutor, or the college shop. Scarf blanks of various types and weights are available, as is silk on the roll. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own scarf blanks, preferably oblong in shape.

Work that is completed late on in the course can be steamed by the tutor in her studio. She will return it to students by post for the cost of postage and packing, payable direct to her.

In addition please bring, if you have them:

If you have already done some silk-painting or wax-resist work you are warmly invited to bring samples or images.

You can also bring favourite brushes, tjantings etc. and oblong silk scarf blanks to paint.

A NOTE ABOUT FRAMES: West Dean supplies oblong frames for students which will take scarves (or fabric) up to a maximum 45 cm wide and 2 metres long. Smaller scarves can also be stretched on these frames. You are welcome to bring your own scarves but, if you wish to work to a larger size than mentioned above, or a different proportion to the frames, you should first contact the tutor, Isabella (by email: imswhit@gmail.com) to discuss requirements and check this is viable. While every effort will be made to accommodate requests, allocation of space for all students needs to be considered.

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.