

SUMMER SCHOOL SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SSS08041 SHIBORI TECHNIQUES FOR TEXTILE ARTISTS

Tutor: ROB JONES (in place of Janice Gunner)

Dates: 6 DAYS SATURDAY 28 JULY – FRIDAY 3 AUGUST

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Shibori is the Japanese word for resist dyeing of fabric. Working with a variety of techniques and then dyeing the fabrics produces amazing textures and effects for use in textile art. Each piece of fabric will be unique, allowing for creative exploration for your own work.

This course will explore a wide variety of Shibori techniques to pattern cloth using stitch, tying, clamping, pleating and wrapping. You will be encouraged to try ideas of your own and to consider other mediums for some of the techniques such as paper too.

Following a recap on the basics of stitching and binding; advanced stitch techniques including traditional patterns such as Karamatsu, Mokume and Guntai as well as stitch variants Rob uses in his own work and form a part of his personal practice will be explored; Itajime board clamping; Shine-Ire (rope core work); Makiage (stitched motifs); and a selection of other techniques using objects such as clips, chopsticks, etc will also be presented. We will also look at layering techniques on top of each other and cutting and re-piecing which may appeal to textiles artists looking for a more advanced interpretation of Shibori and how to vary its use.

After preparation, your work will be dyed with indigo to produce a range of blues. If you wish to include other colours, natural dye plant vats of Tansy or Heather for yellow and Madder for red, will be available to pre-dye or over-dye fabrics. You will produce a range of fabrics to keep both as a visual record for future reference and, towards the end of the course some work exploring re-piecing and ways to work with your dyed fabric towards the end of the course. Demonstrations, discussions and tutorials will be ongoing throughout the course and encouragement given on how to continue with your work at home or in your studio.

Please ensure you read the 'pre-course preparation' notes on page 2.

N.B: This workshop will focus on using an indigo dye vat for blues, the natural dye plant vats for yellow or red replacing the Procion dyes Janice Gunner would have offered, as they are more in line with Rob Jones' own practice.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Rob Jones is a textile artist, who takes his inspiration from Japanese Textiles traditions including Shibori, Katagami stencilling and Sashiko embroidery and Boro. He began his study in 2011 at West Dean on short courses and then undertook an intensive course with Bryan Whitehead in Japan in the autumn of 2014. Rob has been a full-time textiles designer and teacher since September 2015. Rob has also studied natural dyeing under Michel Garcia and is a member of the London Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers and the Muswell Hill Creatives. Rob teaches at seven workshop spaces around London and, most recently demonstrated Shibori and Indigo Dyeing at Craft Central on the Isle of Dogs as part of London Craft Week 2018.

Rob's approach to textiles design is to innovate using traditional methods, breaking the tradition in a sympathetic way, either by cutting and re-piecing work or by merging techniques together to create modern versions of them. Rob follows the principles of Wabi Sabi, looking for the beauty in the random effects that are created by certain Shibori techniques and Mottainai, the Japanese equivalent of "waste not, want not".

In my teaching I encourage students to understand the traditional methods and practice that makes for a successful piece and then to reinvent them as something new and personal to them.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Please note: a detailed timetable covering all additional events and activities planned for your summer school week will be given to you on arrival.

Arrival day: Saturday 28 July

By 12.00 noon	Arrival and registration for summer school students (Please note: some bedrooms may not be available until 1pm)
12.15pm	Directors Welcome in the Stewards Bar, followed by lunch
2.00pm – 5.00pm	First teaching session
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.15pm	Tutors' talks in the Old Library

Other days: Sunday 29 July to Thursday 2 August

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes (except Wednesday afternoon which is untutored and free for excursions to Chichester, from 2–5pm)
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–10.00pm	Evening working or additional timetabled summer school events. Workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been agreed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 3 August

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Final teaching session
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Individual group reviews
12.45pm	Lunch
1.30pm–2.30pm	Displays of Summer School students work in studios
3.00pm	Summer School ends
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Gather a collection of plain natural cellulose fabrics to use to dye. Fabrics such as cotton, linen, hemp, bamboo and viscose (or combinations of these) work best. You can also dye silk and wool too, so bring some of these if you wish. Threads can also be dyed. If you like to recycle fabric, consider bringing some, they often take the dye beautifully.

Do not buy sheeting, it is too densely woven and will make hand stitching some of the resist techniques difficult (I speak from experience!). Pre-wash fabrics in non-biological washing product (unless they are PFD – prepared for dyeing) and dry. **Do not use fabric softener.**

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm. On the first and last days (ie Saturday and Friday) of your Summer School week the shop will be open until 4.30pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first afternoon of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

The course fee includes the cost of providing indigo, madder and tansy/heather dyes and their auxiliaries.

Additional charge:

On this course the tutor will bring some additional fabrics for you to purchase directly from him if you wish. The cost of what you select should be paid to the tutor before the end of the course in cash.

Available from the Shop:

Some fabrics are suitable for dyeing and are PFD (prepared for dyeing)

Available from the tutor:

Vintage French linen fabric

Some mordanted fabrics and pre-dyed fabrics dyed with natural plant dyes

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

Standard size round plastic bucket (it must hold more than 5 litres)

Plastic tray (a clean cat litter tray will do)

Apron and rubber gloves – wear old clothes!

Kitchen paper

Wooden stick or an old wooden spoon to stir the vat

Water erasable marker pen – I use the Clover brand – fine tip!

Ruler

Note pad and pen. Digital camera

A cushion. This will be used to Shin-Ire core work with a stand so make sure its comfy as you will be sitting on it.

Items to tie into fabrics such as glass beads, marbles, small stones etc.

Clips, chopsticks, rubber bands and other tools to compress fabrics. (The tutor will also provide a selection of these.)

Strong thread (polyester – 75s from Empress Mills) to use for tying and stitching

Soft string

Sewing kit – scissors, needles etc.

Fabric: See required preparation.

I will bring a selection of items for the class to use such as templates, pegs, clips and poles for some of the Shibori techniques. If you have any others of your own, please bring them.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISUAL ART & CRAFT SUMMER SCHOOL

Attending an intensive Summer School course allows you to experience a range of creative activities alongside your course. Special Summer School features:

- Inspirational talks by tutors and displays of their work.
- A swap-over session to another course of your choice.

- An optional evening at the Chichester Festival Theatre (pre-booked at a group rate, via a form we send you in May).
- A free afternoon on Wednesday to explore Chichester or other cultural highlights on offer in the locality.
- A special party with dinner, entertainment and music.
- Workshop displays of students' work and informal end-of-course group reviews.
- If your stay includes the weekend of 10–12 August, enjoy West Dean's Chilli Fiesta in the gardens in your free time and add a little 'spice' to your stay with all things chilli and live music from midday until 11pm on the front lawn.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS are expected to attend evening sessions (which may last up to 10 pm), so their fees include coffee, lunch and dinner daily.

RESIDENT STUDENTS: Residents staying on for more than one Summer School week will have the additional dinner, bed and breakfast between the Summer School courses provided free of charge.