

Big Cat Textiles

2018 Masterclass Programme

Classes confirmed so far...

MARCH

Pattern Cutting and Sewing with Jeanette Sandler

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March (3 days)
£295 excluding materials

This class will give you the tailoring confidence to make up a toile from scratch, including fitting and adjusting. You will learn how to take measurements and draft up your own personal bodice and skirt block pattern. You will then manipulate your blocks into dynamic shapes inspired by historical and contemporary fashion, experimenting with shapes and the cut and fit of the cloth. You'll also study and experiment with a variety of fashion details such as cuffs, pockets and different hemlines.

This class is suitable for beginners or those wishing to develop their skills.

Woodland creatures with Jennie Loudon

Saturday 31st March to Sunday 1st April (2days)
£195 excluding materials

You will make a textile woodland creature using a combination of hand and machine sewing. You will be provided with the basic pattern, calico, stuffing, eye beads, hair, fabrics, buttons, and strong thread for jointing. There will be turning tools and doll needles available for use in the class, and also for sale if required. You are welcome to bring any fabrics or embellishments you might want to include as well as your own basic sewing kit.

This class is suitable for all, but basic needle skills are essential.

APRIL

Spring Millinery with Jeanette Sandler

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th April (3 days)
£295 (basic materials included)

This class takes place at Hat in the Cat, Perth.

You will study some original pieces from the 1940s and 1950s and look at the traditional techniques used to make them. You will develop skills required for blocking and shaping buckram, wiring, draping, lining and trimming, and make two resolved headpieces: one from buckram and fabric, and a cocktail hat, from sinamay. We guarantee a small class size with lots of individual tuition to help you realise your design ideas.

This class is suitable for all, but basic hand-sewing skills are essential.

MAY

Creative hand stitching with Amanda Clayton

Monday 14th to Thursday 17th May (4 days)
£395

This hand-stitching class takes 'pure essence' as a starting point to explore fabrics and stitch and develop personal responses. You will:

- Respond to a primary source.
- Recognise the process of developing concept, imagery and qualities.
- Work with the inherent qualities of cloth.
- Use hand stitch as a functional element.
- Rediscover techniques in a new context.
- Understand your own individual visual language.

This class is suitable for all, but hand-sewing skills are essential.

Leather Bags with Anna Gunnarsdottir

Monday 21st to Thursday 24th May (4 days)
£395 (most materials included, excluding fish-skin)

In this class, you will make a hand-stitched bag from vegetable-tanned cow hide. You will learn how to colour the leather and then shape and form your bag according to your own ideas. You can decorate your bag with fish skins, metal, or fabric, according to taste. Anna will bring a selection of fish-skins with her from Iceland for you to use.

This class is suitable for all, but hand-sewing skills are essential.

Leather Jewellery with fishskin with Anna Gunnarsdottir

Friday 25th to Saturday 26th May (2 days)
£195 (materials included)

In this class, you will make jewellery from vegetable-tanned leather. You can make a collection of brooches, necklaces, ear-rings or bangles which you can decorate with any of the following, as you wish: fish skin, horsehair, wood, metal or any piece of fabric. Leather, leather colours, leather-fastenings, fish-skin and horsehair will be provided, and are included in the workshop fee.

This class is suitable for all, but hand-sewing skills are essential.

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JUNE

Fusion and Transformation with Michael Brennand-Wood and Philip Sanderson

Monday 11th to Friday 15th June (5 days)
£495

Explore structure, multiple warps, thread construction, and collage as weft under the expert tutelage of Michael and Philip. You will be provided with a bespoke constructed frame into which you will work. Taking the idea of warp threads or elements under tension as an initial starting point, you will create structures and foundations on which to build. You will be encouraged to use a variety of techniques and processes, to define a space within the primary structure, integrating objects and assemblages of interest to you.

This class is suitable for all abilities.

Reconnect with the Gestures of Stitch with James Hunting

Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th June (3 days)
£295 excluding materials

James will encourage you to reconnect with the gestures of simple hand stitching to create movement, space and depth in your pieces. You will explore ways to join fabrics, and transfer images using silk organza. If there is time, you may also explore flocking and foiling. James says 'Rather than traditional techniques of embroidery and textile art, I prefer to use traditional gestures of embroidery to achieve the effect I want. I strive to make emotional engagement, for the viewer and for myself, visual through the media of textiles and stitch.'

This class is suitable for all abilities.

Summer Millinery with Jeanette Sandler

Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd June (3 days),
£295 excluding materials

This class takes place at Hat in the Cat, Perth.

This class will give you a comprehensive introduction to traditional millinery material and techniques which you can then use with a contemporary, freeform design approach. You will learn how to block sinamay, felt and buckram. You can then choose which you would prefer to use for your final two hats, based on your own designs. You will wire, cover and trim your hats, focusing especially on traditional trimming, using petersham, feathers and straw.

This class is suitable for all abilities, but basic hand-sewing skills are essential.

19th century hat making inspired by film and theatre with Jane Smith

Monday 25th to Thursday 28th June (4 days),
£395 excluding materials

In this fascinating and eclectic class, focusing on the 19th Century, hatter Jane Smith will begin by discussing the nuances of theatrical hat making for film and theatre, and offer for inspiration the hats she has produced for stage and screen. You will work with the basic styles and shapes of the period, using straw and buckram which can be covered with fabrics of choice. The hats will be completed with trimmings such as lavish ribboning, re-constructed birds, flowers, etc.

This class is suitable for anyone keen to extend their hat-making skills, including professionals, as well as for the less-experienced maker.

JULY

Experimental Passementerie with Elizabeth Ashdown

Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th July (3 days),
£295 excluding materials

Starting off with some basic motifs and designs of Passementerie (woven decorative trimmings), you will use simple weaving techniques alongside braiding, knotting and macramé construction methods to develop a selection of personal samples, which may include mixed media/found items. These samples can be extended into larger scale pieces, or used as embellishments for fashion or interior items.

This class is suitable for beginners and more-experienced makers alike.

Weave a scarf with Heather Shields

Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st July (3 days)
£295

During this exciting 3-day weaving class, participants will design and weave their own scarf, exploring colour and its interaction with simple weave structures to create unexpected and often surprising patterns. The design can be as simple or as complex as desired; the main considerations will be to create something comfortable to wear that is reflective of your own creativity. You will be shown how to make a warp, set up a rigid heddle loom, select weaving patterns, and weave your very own scarf. You will leave with technical notes so you can continue to build on what you have learned during the workshop.

This class is suitable for all abilities

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JULY

Fascinating Felt Surfaces with Ricarda Aßman

Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th July (3 days), £295

This class for advanced feltmakers will start with an exploration of different techniques to manipulate (pre-)felt pieces to achieve samples with an extraordinary surface design. You will play with pre-felts, structures and textures, forms and designs: cutting, sewing, layering, stapling and bulging to create a range of samples. After sampling, you will reflect on what inspires you, and decide which samples to develop into a personal object, sculpture or wall hanging, which you will complete during the class.

This class is aimed at the more-experienced felt-maker.

Jewellery with mixed media with Ricarda Aßman

Thursday 26th to Friday 27th July (2 days) £195

In this class you will explore the different techniques of manipulating pre-felt pieces during the felting process to achieve an extraordinary surface design for jewellery. You will experiment with combining interesting materials and taming fractious fibres. You will cut, sew, layer, staple and bulge to play with pre-felts, structures and textures, forms and designs.

This class is aimed at the more-experienced felt-maker.

(Felted) Bird Masks with Gladys Paulus

Monday 30th July to Thursday 2nd August (4days) £395

This class covers all the basics of animal mask-making, focusing specifically on birds. These masks will cover the head completely and are sculptures in their own right. You will learn how to create a resist, build up the bird's characteristic features, achieve facial symmetry, experiment with different types of plumage, and felt all the 3D parts together.

This class is suitable for experienced feltmakers. Experience in making 3-dimensional felt around a resist is required.

AUGUST

Classic and Phantasy hats with Judit Tóth-Pócs

Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th August (3 days), £295

During this class, you will use Australian merino wool and felting techniques to make two hats. The first will be a wearable hat for daily use. Once the structure has been created, you can add colourful pure woven silk to the surface, and decorate with small 3D elements as desired. The second will be a sculptural hat, which features 3D elements felted together.

This class is aimed at the more-experienced felt-maker.

Jewelleries combined with metal chain with Judit Tóth-Pócs

Thursday 16th to Friday 17th August (2 days), £195

In this class, you will create unique pieces of jewellery by combining metal chain with textiles in various ways, including felting it into the piece or creating a cage or a keeper for it. Participants are encouraged to bring small objects to combine into their pieces.

This class is aimed at the more-experienced felt-maker.

Between the Folds: conceal/reveal with Caroline Bartlett

Monday 27th to Friday 31st August (5 days) £495

In this class you will explore the idea of concealing/revealing to create a range of experimental textile samples. You will start by marking your surface using sublimation printing and disperse dyes through using rubbings, stencils, drawing, painting and collage techniques, foiling, and photographic transfer. You will then go on to experiment with concealing/revealing as you structure, texturise and shape your printed surfaces by pleating, folding, crumpling, crushing, heat setting, using shibori techniques, and making and using origami moulds.

This is an exploratory course suitable for all abilities.

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SEPTEMBER

Mono and screenprinting with Eszter Bornemisza

Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th September (4 days), £295

This class introduces printing techniques that can be used on both paper and textile. Students will explore the vast possibilities of mono printing, stencil printing and screen printing using different types of paint. A great variety of resists including paper, string, wax, flour and acrylic medium will be introduced along with scratching and paint-lifting techniques to help students to discover the most appropriate technique for their artistic expression.

This class is suitable for all abilities.

Cloth doll-making with Jennie Loudon

Friday 14th to Monday 17th September (4 days), £395

In this class you'll create your own character cloth doll, after first experimenting with some more advanced cloth doll making techniques, including dart shaping, an optional bust and a couple of head variations, which can be developed with colouring, separate eyelids or set-in painted eyes. Ears, toes and articulated fingers will also be covered.

Basic machine and hand stitching skills are essential. This class is aimed at those who have some experience of doll-making, but support will be provided for those with less experience.

OCTOBER

Pattern Cutting and Sewing with Jeanette Sandler

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October (3 days) £295 excluding materials

This class will give you the tailoring confidence to make up a toile from scratch, including fitting and adjusting. You will learn how to take measurements and draft up your own personal bodice and skirt block pattern. You will then manipulate your blocks into dynamic shapes inspired by historical and contemporary fashion, experimenting with shapes and the cut and fit of the cloth. You'll also study and experiment with a variety of fashion details such as cuffs, pockets and different hemlines.

This class is suitable for beginners or those wishing to develop their skills.

Autumn Millinery with Jeanette Sandler

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th October (3 days) £295 (basic materials included)

This class takes place at Hat in the Cat, Perth.

On this masterclass you will produce two constructed fabric hats with industrial felt or luxury fur elements incorporated into the design. Using flat pattern techniques, you will learn to construct hats suitable for cold wintry days. These could range in shape from a simple pillbox or cloche to a baker boy or wide-brimmed hat. We guarantee a small class size with lots of individual tuition to help you realise your design ideas.

This class is suitable for all, but basic hand-sewing skills are essential.