

Tapestry weaving workshop

For this workshop we will be trying out techniques for creating texture within the weaving.

What to bring:

Tapestry frame with warp yarn on. SEE BELOW

Yarns:

Yarns will be available, but I suggest you bring any interesting textured yarns you have – small amounts of fancy knitting wools in a variety of thicknesses if you have them would be useful, but not essential.

Other equipment to bring:

Tapestry bobbin (s) if you have them, and/or a tapestry needle (large blunt needle with a large eye)

Scissors

A comb – afro style is perfect, or a normal comb with big teeth. Or a kitchen fork.!

A pen and paper might be useful if you like taking notes.

Notes re tapestry frame. If you are a complete beginner, an inexpensive way to make a frame is to buy artists stretchers, which are very easy to put together. You will need 2 pairs ie 1 pair of 10inch and 1 pair of 12 or 14 inch.

You will also need 1 or 2 thin sticks – a 12inch ruler would do.

For the warp a strong smooth cotton yarn is best.

Stretchers and yarn are available from George Weil/Fibre crafts.

Alternatively they have a beginners/mini loom advertised which comes with a warp already on.

Putting the warp on your frame.

You will be working with the shortest sides of your frame at top and bottom.

You will need approx 16 to 20 warp ends (ie 1 piece of warp yarn that stretches from top to bottom)– this must be an even number.

Try to place your warp as central as possible. You will space 4 or 6 warp ends to an inch so if you have 20 warp ends the width of your warp will be approx 5 inches.

If the ball of yarn is reasonably small use it as it is, otherwise you can estimate how much to use by wrapping the yarn around the outside of the frame (long sides) 21 times, cut off and make into a ball.

Start by winding the end of your yarn twice around the top edge of the frame and securing it off with a good knot. You will be winding the yarn on in a figure of eight. Take the ball down and behind the bottom edge, under and back up in front of it (1st warp end), then take it up and behind the top edge, and over and in front (2nd warp end). Give a tug to tension it, and repeat, keeping the yarn as taut as possible. Try to space the yarns out evenly as you go – 4 or 6 ends (not pairs of ends) to an inch.

When you have get to the end of winding – finishing on the top edge, wind the yarn twice around and secure it.

You can make the tension tighter by, starting at your first warp end – lift each end in turn, taking up the slack as you go, and adjust your 2 final winds before knotting this off – preferably with a half bow.

Any problems/queries, please email me.

Simple weaving workshop. Suitable for beginners.

I will be providing mini frames with warps on, so that they are ready to go.

I can supply everything, but students may like to bring the following:

Yarns:

A selection of yarns will be available, but I suggest you bring any interesting yarns you have – even small pieces of knitting wools and similar can be used. A selection of colours and/or textures in a variety of thicknesses if you have them would be useful, but not essential.

Other equipment to bring:

A large blunt needle with a large eye.

Scissors

A comb – afro style is perfect, or a normal comb with big teeth. Or a kitchen fork.!

A pen and paper might be useful if you like taking notes.