

Creative Fibre Education

National Tutor: Rene Corder Evans



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Biography

Born and educated in New Zealand, I have always had a love for fine wools. But, it was not until I returned to weaving in 1995 that I developed a deep love and appreciation for the art of felt making, and as I had been sewing from an early age, it seems like a natural match to make clothing out of fine wool felt.

In 1996 as I was finishing my Business Administration Degree, I was introduced to the Fashion Design Program at University of the Fraser Valley, Canada (UFV). I graduated with a Diploma of Fashion Design in 1999, and then went on to teach weaving for the Fashion Department from 2001 to 2012. I was dividing my time between creating one of a kind wearable art pieces, teaching weaving at the University level and my career as a business administrator, enjoying the challenges of all three.

In 2012 I retired from both my career and University teaching and now live in both New Zealand and Canada creating wearable art garments, exhibiting and teaching. My pieces are held in private collections in Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and USA.

As a felt artist I work mainly with white and white and dye my felt yardage or garment afterwards mostly using a painterly technique to either create subtle colour changes or bold dramatic colour statements.

As a weaver I work to create texture and surface interest in an otherwise two-dimensional textile.

Textiles, fashion; as a fibre artist I do not think of one without the other.

Workshops

Page	Title	Level	Duration	Available For
P2	Construction Techniques for a Felted Garment	Any	3 days	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P3	Double Up Your Weaving	Intermediate/advanced	12–16 hours	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P4	Double Up Your Weaving in One Day	Any	6–8 hours	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P5	Feltmaking – Felt to Dye For	Any	6–16 hours. One or two-day workshop	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P6	Feltmaking – Take the Next Step	Intermediate	6–8 hours	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P7–8	Weaving with Magic Yarns	Any	6–8 hours	National, local/area, travelling tutor
P9	Find your Weaving Voice: What excites each weaver – structures and/or colours explored	Beginner/intermediate	12–16 hours	National, local/area, travelling tutor

Creative Fibre Workshop

Construction Techniques for a Felted Garment

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans

Description

This workshop will give students an understanding of the factors that need to be considered when planning, designing and making a constructed felt garment (verses a seamless garment). Students will learn basic pattern manipulation techniques, how to understand/change a commercial pattern and other considerations for designing a felted garment, and suitable seam finishing and closures. Students should come to class with a pattern they wish to use or drawings, pictures and sketches of the garment they wish to construct. Students will bring felt garment of their choice.



yardage to make into a

This class can be offered as a one-day class which covers the discussion points and pattern manipulation, but students do not actually construct a garment.

Level	Any
Minimum No. of Participants	No minimum
Maximum No. of Participants	12
Duration	3 days (see above re one-day version)
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students will learn construction techniques suitable felt garments, develop an understanding of how to manipulate patterns to create a unique design and will have experience is sewing their own felt garment.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away a finished or partly finished constructed felt garment.</p>
Materials Required by Participants	Sewing machine, basic sewing kit, zips and other closures they may require, thread, lining, interfacing etc, pattern and or inspiration pictures.
Materials Provided by Tutor	Notes, samples and miscellaneous supplies.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	Felt yardage – students are encouraged to contact the tutor beforehand to discuss project ideas plus supply 6 felt small felt pieces in varying thickness to sample seam finishing techniques
Classroom Facilities	Each student will need a table to work on and a chair. Several spare tables will be required for cutting out and tutor samples, irons and ironing boards (two or three if possible), dress form (if possible).

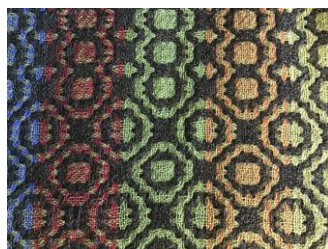
Creative Fibre Workshop

Double Up Your Weaving

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans

Description

Double weave and deflective double weave expands the woven horizons by creating multilayer cloth, extra wide cloth or cloth with curves and texture. They literally double the pleasure and excitement of weaving. This **round robin workshop** will explore double weaves, 4 layered cloth, pleated double weave, deflected double weaves and weave structures that can create 3D texture.



Level	Intermediate/advanced
Minimum No. of Participants	10
Maximum No. of Participants	14
Duration	12–16 hours
Learning Outcomes	Students will create a library of samples as they experiment with 5–7 different weave structures. They will develop an understanding on what makes these structures unique, how to design them and how these structures may be used in their future work. If the warps are provided by the tutor, then the student will also develop an understanding of different colour ways and yarn types. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away samples of 5–7 different weave structures (and colourways).
Materials Required by Participants	Looms, weft yarns (see below), shuttles, bobbins, scissors, tape measurer, cardboard spacers, general weaving equipment and notetaking supplies. Students will be sent warping instructions prior to the class or they will be sent premade warps along with warping instructions. These options will be discussed with the workshop organizer but for this class the students will benefit more if the warps are provided so that they get to experience different yarns and colour ranges than they might have used before.
Materials Provided by Tutor	Notes that will include detailed weave structures for all weaves covered in the class. If the warps are provided by the tutor, then so will the weft yarns.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	Looms to be warped.
Classroom Facilities	Table and chair for each student, two tables for tutor samples, bobbin winder.

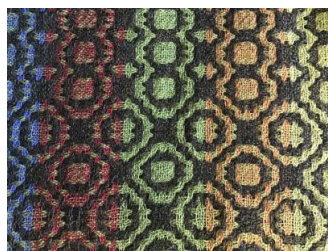
Creative Fibre Workshop

Double Up Your Weaving in One Day

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans

Description

Double weave and deflected double weave expand the woven horizons by creating multilayer cloth, extra wide cloth, or cloth with curves and texture. They literally double the pleasure and excitement of weaving. This **one-day workshop** will explore double weaves, 4 layered cloth, pleated double weave, deflected double weaves and weave structures that can create 3D texture.



Level	Any
Minimum No. of Participants	8
Maximum No. of Participants	15
Duration	6–8 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students will mainly weave on their own looms but will have the opportunity to weave on one or two other looms. They will develop an understanding about double weave and deflected double weave structures, and how these structures may be used in their future work.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away a sampler woven on their own loom plus samples of one or two different weave structures.</p>
Materials Required by Participants	Warped looms, warp and weft yarns, shuttles, bobbins, scissors, tape measurer, cardboard spacers, general weaving equipment and note-taking supplies. Students are sent warping instructions prior to the class.
Materials Provided by Tutor	Notes will include detailed weave structures for all weaves covered in the class.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	Looms to be warped.
Classroom Facilities	Table and chair for each student, two tables for tutor samples, bobbin winder.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Feltmaking – Felt to Dye For

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans

Description

This one-day or two-day workshop explores the art of dyeing as it pertains to felted projects, pieces and yardage. Dyeing the felt rather than (or in addition to) the fleece or roving adds another layer of complexity to your finished project. The many aspects of dyeing felt will be



discussed. Starting with prefelts or previously made felt, students will work on incorporating colour layering, imagery and texture into felted pieces. A variety of techniques will be used, including shibori stitching, folding and clamping and found objects. In the two-day format students explore different dye techniques including dye painting (batch dyeing). This workshop can be combined with Feltmaking – Take the Next Step to create a multi-day workshop series.

Level Any

Minimum No. of Participants No minimum

Maximum No. of Participants 15

Duration 6–16 hours (one or two-day workshop)

Learning Outcomes Students will learn how to full prefelts, how to use found objects and their shibori techniques to create texture or patterns on felt. They will develop an understanding of colour dyeing using acid dyes and the dye process for dyeing wool.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away 4–8 samples in one-day format plus a larger sample or small scarf in two-day format.

Materials Required by Participants Apron or old clothes (for dyeing), rubber gloves, any interesting found objects they may wish to use as a dye resist, elastic bands, small clamps, one bucket for water, felt soap, three old towels (a more detailed list will be provided by the tutor prior to the workshop).

Materials Provided by Tutor Wool prefelts, dyes and notes or alternately students can provide their own prefelts and felted pieces.

Materials Fee Cost will vary depending on number of days and who provides the fibre.

Advance Preparation Prefelts and felted pieces if not provided by tutor.

Classroom Facilities Each student will need a table to work on which can either get wet or be covered in heavy plastic. Access to hot water and a sink is essential. Floor should be able to get wet but typically we can mop up any water that gets on the floor before it becomes a problem. As the class will involve dyeing, there will need four large dye pots and pot plates, plus an area where dyeing can take place (outside or well vented). A more detailed list of dye equipment will be provided by the tutor depending on travel arrangements.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Felting – Take the Next Step

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans

Description

This workshop will further explore the art of making felt. Looking at not so much how we make felt, but the way we make felt. What is the end platform for our work, or our reason for being a felter? There are probably as many answers as there are method of felting to the simple question – why do we felt? Is the



resulting piece of felt that we create the ultimate reason, or is it just the base for further mixed media work? Is colour blending or dyeing the end result, or just one of the paths along the way? Is the final platform actually going to be cut and formed into a chair or will it be a delicate shawl? Will it be flat or three dimensional? Will it be displayed on the head, body or on a wall? The questions and answers could continue for almost an eternity and just when you think they are all answered someone will do something totally unexpected and create a whole new felt path.



In this one-day workshop the many aspects of felting will be discussed; from creating images and colour on the felt surface, texture that becomes part of the felt, and incorporating other textile structures such as weaving, knitting or crochet.

This workshop can be combined with Felting – Felt to Dye For to create a multi-day workshop series.

Level: Intermediate

Duration: 6–8 hours

Minimum No. of Participants: No minimum

Maximum No. of Participants: 15

Learning Outcomes: Starting with wool sliver, students will create a lightweight prefelt that they will texture and dye using one of several shibori resist techniques. The piece can then be fulled to create permanent texture, or flatten so the shibori patterns become part of the surface design. Students will gain an understanding of dyeing felt, current felt trends and using felt as part of the process rather than just the end. At the conclusion of the workshop the finished piece will be suitable for a neck warmer, small scarf or that could be incorporated into a future art piece.

Materials Required by Participants: Apron or old clothes (for dyeing), rubber gloves, any interesting found objects they may wish to use as a dye resist, elastic bands, small clamps, one bucket for water, felt soap, three old towels (a more detailed list will be provided by the tutor prior to the workshop)

Materials Provided by Tutor: Fibre (wool silvers), dyes and notes or alternately students can provide their own fibre.

Materials Fee: To be advised.

Advance Preparation: A finished piece suitable for a neck warmer, small scarf or could be incorporated into a future art piece.

Classroom Facilities: Each student will need a table to work on which can either get wet or be covered in heavy plastic. Access to hot water and a sink is essential. Floor should be able to get wet but typically we can mop up any water that gets on the floor before it becomes a problem. As the class will involve dyeing we will need 4 large dye pots and pot plates, plus an area where dyeing can take place (outside or well vented). A more detailed list of dye equipment will be provided by the tutor depending on travel arrangements.

Description

This one-day workshop will explore some of the new and innovative yarns that weavers can now purchase but, because of the cost of the yarns and shipping, many have not had a chance to experiment with them and decide which yarns will work in their weaving portfolio. The focus of the workshop is the texture that these yarns can create purely because of their make-up rather than weave structure creating the texture. Students will come with looms already warped (straight draw) in a fibre and colour of their choice (16/2 or 32/2 cotton, fine wool or 20/2 or 30/2 silk). They will weave on their own looms using a variety of yarns provided, including (but not limited to):

- stainless steel with wool
- silk or linen
- fine wire
- over-twisted and crepe yarns
- S and Z spun yarns being used together
- yarns with lycra or elastic added
- thermoplastic yarns that will create permanent pleats

Other innovative yarns will be discussed and sampled such as hanji and linen paper, reflective yarns and fibre optics. Suitable sett for each yarn, yarn suppliers and shipping efficiencies will be discussed so at the end of the workshop students will have a complete reference for working with new and innovative yarns.



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Workshop: Weaving with Magic Yarns (Page 2 of 2)

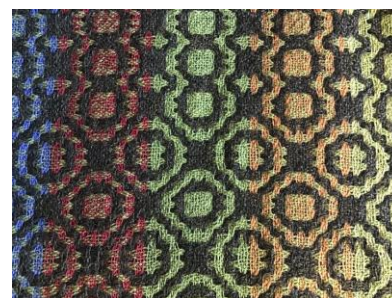
Level	Any
Minimum No. of Participants	No minimum
Maximum No. of Participants	15
Duration	6–8 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students will create a library of sample using yarns that they may not have had access to before. They will develop an understanding on how certain yarns react when wet finished, and how these and other yarns may be used in the future work.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away samples and/or a sampler of as many different weft yarns as time allows as well as an understanding of what different yarns will do and how they might be used in future weaving projects.</p>
Materials Required by Participants	Warp yarns, shuttles, scissors, tape measurer, cardboard spacers, general weaving equipment and notetaking supplies. Students are sent details of suitable warp yarns and warping instructions prior to the class.
Materials Provided by Tutor	Weft yarns bobbins, sample cards and class notes including suppliers list and contacts.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	Looms to be warped.
Classroom Facilities	Table and chair for each student, two tables for tutor samples and weft yarns, bobbin winder, hot water and kettle for wet finishing some of the samples.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Finding Your Weaving Voice

What excites each weaver – structures and/or colours explored

Tutor: Rene Corder Evans



Description

Weavers are often excited either by the structure of weaving or the colourways (and maybe textures) that they create. This round robin workshop will explore 5–7 (depending on class numbers) weave structures and/or colourways allowing beginner or intermediate weavers a chance to explore what might excite them as a weaver. Weave structures that could be explored are double weaves, lace, shadow/echo, overshot, summer and winter, twill for colour, and weave structures for texture.



Level	Beginner and intermediate
Minimum No. of Participants	12
Maximum No. of Participants	14
Duration	12–16 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students will create a library of samples as they experiment with 5–7 different weave structures. They will develop an understanding of what makes these structures unique, how to design them and how these structures may be used in their future work. If the warps are provided by the tutor, then the student will also develop an understanding of different colour ways and yarn types.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away samples of 5–7 different weave structures (and colour ways) and an understanding of how they might be used in future weaving projects</p>
Materials Required by Participants	Looms (4 or 8 shaft), weft yarns (see below), shuttles, bobbins, scissors, tape measurer, cardboard spacers, general weaving equipment and note-taking supplies. Students are sent warping instructions prior to the class or they will be sent pre-made warps along with warping instructions. These options will be discussed with the workshop organiser but for this class the students will benefit more if the warps are provided so that they get to experience different yarns and colour ranges than they might have used before.
Materials Provided by Tutor	Notes that will include detailed weave structures for all weaves covered in the class. If the warps are provided by the tutor, then so will the weft yarns.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	Looms to be warped.
Classroom Facilities	Table and chair for each student, two tables for tutor samples, bobbin winder.