

CETG ARCHIVE

Heather Cawthorn's workshop: 10th June 2017

"The Fun and Fascination of Nuno Felting"

Twelve members and friends spent a fun, fascinating and FANTASTIC day learning two nuno-felting techniques. By combining wool-tops, silk chiffon pieces, wool snippets and scraps of throwsters' waste with the aid of soapy water and elbow grease, each of us created unique pieces of textiles. They were all so interesting and attractive and could easily be the final product but I know some will use them as a basis for stitch and further embellishment. Heather inspired us and showed us the infinite possibilities of this useful and immensely satisfying art-form, and was ably assisted by Judith Gibson.

There is information on how to do Nuno Felting at the end of this report.





All photos © Liz Wilmott, Rosemary Mason, Fiona Brown

Comments from our felters:

- Exhausted but excited by the two great techniques that I've learnt today. Hope to embellish my pieces and then make more. **Judith G**
- Great fun, good company.
- Such a fun day - as ever with Heather in charge! I have revisited a fascinating skill, learnt a lot of lessons and look forward to finishing my two felt-based pictures when I get home. A great atmosphere working with like-minded new friends. **Lisa**
- Great to learn a new process and see everyone else's work and colour schemes.
- Yet another wonderful technique under my belt! But will I remember the steps? Thank you dear Heather and Judith for your direction, patience and humour.
- Wonderful, totally absorbing workshop. I am inspired! **Barbara**
- Great day, learnt a lot - some more successful than others! But all will be used one way or another. Good company and escapism too. **Judith M**
- Absolutely fantastic workshop. I learnt so much and feel so inspired. This is a skill I will definitely use. Thank you Heather, it has been a productive, informative and fun day. **Wendy**
- Wonderful warm wet and woolly workshop! **Liz**

How to do Nuno Felting

Materials: silk chiffon, wool-tops, chunky wool and other scraps you may want to include.

Equipment: old towel, bubble wrap (1 metre square, small bubbles), fine plastic sheet, warm water in spray bottle, low lather soap (olive oil soap recommended), rolling pin, optional net curtaining to hold embellished surface in place

Working sequence:

1. Spread towel and then bubble wrap on working surface.
2. Place chiffon pieces edge to edge and squirt with warm water.
3. Tease out wool tops and place over joins.
4. Add snippets of yarns etc and spray all over with warm water.
5. Cover surface with fine plastic sheet.
6. Squirt on warm water and work in soap.
7. Turn soapy surface of plastic sheet to felt/chiffon fabric and massage with hands.
8. Turn to reverse side of chiffon and patch any gaps with more teased wool-tops.
Cover with soapy plastic and massage again.
9. Wrap complete sandwich of bubble wrap, felting and plastic sheet round a rolling pin and roll back and forward until the fabric has woven together and shrunk.
Check felting is complete by trying to tease bits off surface with fingers.
10. Put felted fabric into a bowl, cover with boiling water and leave to shrink further.
11. Rinse out soap, squeeze out fabric, pat with towel and shake out gently.
12. Spread out and leave to dry.

This technique can produce an end in itself e.g. a textured scarf, or it can be a surface to embellish with stitch, beads and sequins.

One thing you can be sure of – you will have created a unique piece of work to be very proud of. Carry on creating more samples and enjoy the process!