



NEWSLETTER - September 2013

Hello to you all!

It is hard for me to believe that the year is nearly at its end and there is still so much to do. My aim for this year is to complete a range of tasks that I have begun and then have a sabbatical from my studio teaching and a reduced workload in other areas of my life for a period of at least one year. Teachers especially need to create a space to refresh their own personal work so that they can return enthused and with new gifts for their students. I am excited to think what I will create in the space I have made. Please keep track of what is happening on my website as I will have a little break from newsletters for a while, a gentle paring back of my activities. I will take a break from my organizational role in local community arts work and my beloved hospice work. I find it really hard to put these things on hold but realise that I need to do some personal battery recharging!

CLASSES 2014

I will be teaching on a cruise in February and 4 classes at Koala Conventions in July. No other classes are scheduled. I am taking bookings at present for teaching in Australia and Internationally in 2015/16. A cruise opportunity in South East Asia beckons. I am available to teach in Singapore in April as that is where the cruise ends. I also am planning a trip to Iceland (in summer...) to teach and also to learn! How exciting! I am designing a body of work to teach in the European summer so if you are based in the UK or Europe and would like me to teach please email me ASAP.

INTERNATIONAL TUTORS

I will continue to have visiting tutors teach at The Felt Studio. This is an integral part of The Felt Studio ethos. These classes are very special. I am choosing International Tutors who are respected for their techniques and work and teach with a high level of integrity. This is to further the art of felt making in Australia and particularly in Queensland where I live. We have Irit Dulman coming early in the year and a couple more very special tutors in the wings to be confirmed. Martien van Zuilen is hoping to join us towards the end of the year. We are still planning the course but I think it will be her gorgeous Mandala Felts! Stay tuned!



A little vest I made for a friend's little one.....So cute!!! will have more time to play in the year ahead to make things for people I care about!



Martien's Mandala at the FELTPORTATION Exhibition run at the same time as Convergence...Martien will be teaching at The Felt Studio in 2014.



IRIT DULMAN AT THE FELT STUDIO

From Irit: "Natural Hand Writing" The workshop will be an experience of natural dyeing and prints on different materials like silk fabrics, wool fabrics, wool felt and natural fibers like silk, flax, hemp, etc... My teaching approach on this subject is artistic.

Interaction between the natural plant colors and printing on natural fibers like silk, wool, flax, etc. We will explore in depth while creating a one piece, seamless felt printed book. Day 1 : The dyeing will be focused on silk fabrics. The students will learn how to prepare the dye bath from plants, how to fold and design a fabric, how to prepare and tie a bundle with leaves. While bundles are cooking, the students will felt samples of wool + different fibres for dye and print on the next day.

Day 2: The dyeing will be focused on wool fabrics and wool felt samples . While bundles are being cooked, they will start to felt the seamless book.

Day 3: Finishing the felt book. A discussion on all the fabrics dyed the first 2 days . Dyeing and printing the felt book. **Dyeing theory accompanied by examples of my work.** There may also be a day 4 to be advised !!

If you wish to book there are a handful of spaces left.

JORIE JOHNSON- LAST MINUTE SPACES



Three spaces remaining due to last minute cancellations! An event not to be missed an inspiring class with an amazingly creative tutor.

Jorie Johnson: Japan/USA

Jorie will be coming to teach at *The Felt Studio* in October 25/26/27. She is a very, very experienced felt maker of great renown. Jorie is co-author of *Fabulous Felted Scarves* and *Wool Magic*. <http://www.joirae.com/>

Feltmaker's Portfolio of Tricks Workshop

From Jorie:

"We will be working in groups of 3-4 people and I will promote some sharing of materials as it is almost impossible to know what people have and what they will want to use during the exercises.

The class theme will relate to felt as art objects and we will explore color, layering, thickness/thinness, tails, reserve design, and open for discussion on any points that you want to explore. Please bring examples of small pieces which inspire you or a motif you recognize as something that comes up often



Irit's Natural Handwriting Class



12th SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FELT CONVERGENCE: IMAGES



in your work. Let's search for our personal imagery through life experiences, natural phenomenon. We will be covering a variety of exercises."Jorie will also have a powerpoint presentation of her work.Come join us for this special event...

IN THE STUDIO

I have had varying success in the studio of late. I have had a few frustrations , more confirmation that I need a break. The successes however have luckily out- weighed the disasters and I am thrilled with some things and disappointed with others, but as always I have learnt a lot along the way. Especially have enjoyed the three visiting tutor classes at the studio and am eager to have time to play with new techniques learnt.

FELT TECHNIQUES



Try using ordinary old masking tape as a resist....Place the tape on fabric or pre-felt or needle felt and then lay three layers of wool tops over this ... Felt as usual and then cut after felting is hard....then work a little more to heal the cut edges... Woo hoo!....Hope you like this idea....I have pondered it for ages and of course have now found that someone else has done the same thing across the other side of the world! You can reuse the tape afterwards ...Just stick it on a piece of plastic for re-use when dry. Try placing different colours of wool over and under the masking tape for a varied result. Use tape of different widths for different effects.

Keep your eye out for the latest issue of Felt Magazine, it is due out in December. Rachel Meek and I are, as you know, co-editors and we would appreciate your feedback very much. It was wonderful fun putting it all together and still continues to be a very steep, but immensely rewarding learning curve. All the best, stay safe and keep creating!

Remember...*Blessed are the Felt makers who take sabbaticals as well as the busy feltmakers !!!! Wendy xxx*



Prefelt on Black Paj....By Wendy Bailye...below shibori wrap on muslin....



Student work from Anna Gunnarsdottirs' class at the studio



Lovely workshop work -Spinners and weavers Toowoomba...