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Open College of the Arts

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Textiles 1: A Creative Approach

A first level textile design course for OCA written by textiles designer Pat Moloney

The course helps students to:

- develop visual ideas through drawing, the use of different media and textile materials
- explore a range of textile techniques
- develop an individual approach to designing and creating images and to the tactile qualities within the craft discipline of textiles
- acquire a basic understanding of the historical and cultural origins of textiles relevant to the design of textiles.

Course content

This course concentrates more on designing and self-expression through the use of textile media than on acquiring specific textile techniques. However, adequate information is provided on techniques and references are given for those students who wish to go further.

The course begins with drawing and mark making, which are then expressed in stitch. Students are then introduced to colour theory and practice and basic design skills, followed by exercises in printing and painting on paper and fabric. The use of fabrics to create two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional forms using stitch are explored and students go on to create a simple piece of their own design. Textile structures made from yarns and basic tapestry weaving methods are introduced. Finally students work on a design project, developing ideas from drawings, making

a story board and translating their ideas into textiles samples and a finished piece.

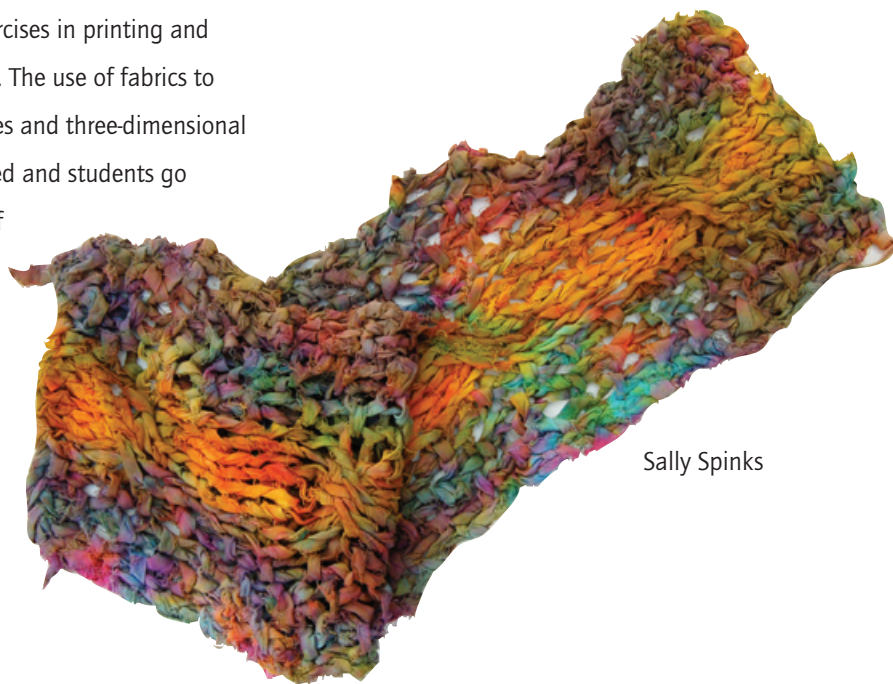
Alongside these practical activities, students do regular guided logbook work on historical and contemporary textiles.

Teaching methods

The course provides you with a series of projects that are supported by distance learning techniques. At certain points in the course your work will be seen by your tutor, and answers to any specific questions you have.

You can get credits for your course too

If you want to have your work recognised you can gain credits towards a full qualification in art. To do this you present a portfolio of your work on the course, including work on specific projects, for assessment.



Sally Spinks