



<b>Course Title</b>	Textiles, Sculptural Textiles, Latex
<b>Tutor</b>	Lynne Abrahamson and Hiromi Scintu
<b>Day &amp; time</b>	Monday, 10am - 5pm
<b>Dates</b>	24/04/17 - 26/06/17
<b>Course Code</b>	D1603S531
<b>Level</b>	All
<b>Room</b>	Workshop



### **What is this course about?**

Students will be introduced to the processes and techniques of textiles within the field of Fine art practice. Students will experiment and explore different methods, materials and processes, including embroidery and the sampler tradition, wet and dry felting, latex and soft sculpture. We will use traditional and modern approaches to textiles in order to understand the qualities of materials, their construction processes and the meaning of using textiles in contemporary art practice. After initial experimentation with this process students will take their chosen 'Personal Project' concept to inform and structure their textile exploration.

### **What topics do we cover?**

**Thread:** How to translate a drawing into an embroidery and how to create texture and depth by varying thread count and using different stitches to create foreground, background and shading. We will also look at the quality and behaviour of threads and the influence of different fabrics.

**Applique:** We will look at different ways of sticking fabric to fabric to create different effects and look at building up an image using a variety of techniques and materials.

**Felting:** Students will learn the techniques of wet and dry felting and how to create surfaces and use the felt needle to make shapes and 3D forms. a range of felting techniques will be taught.

**Latex:** An introduction to the qualities of latex, how to apply it and how to use it as a finish on other materials, for example plaster and fired clay.

**Soft Sculpture:** How to make an armature for a soft sculpture, different stuffing materials and different construction processes

## **By the end of this course you will:**

Have a knowledge of many of the textile materials and processes used by contemporary fine artists, a historical understanding of the medium and what it communicates to the viewer, understand how and why artists use textiles in their practice and you will have planned and executed a personal project using/all of the techniques taught.

## **What level is the course and do I need any particular skills?**

This course is suitable for all levels and does not require any particular skills; only an interest in textiles and mixed-media art in contemporary art practice.

## **How will I be taught, and what feedback and support will I get?**

The course starts with a historical overview of embroidery and textiles in fine art practice. Each week, there will be an introduction to artists who work in a particular area and the techniques they use in their work. Students will then be shown materials and techniques and have the opportunity to try them out and think about how they could be incorporated into their art practice. There will be a number of short projects, working in the various mediums. Students will receive regular feedback from the tutor throughout the course. There will also be short group feedback sessions throughout the course and time set aside for 1:1 discussion.

## **About your tutor**

**Lynne Abrahamson** began studying art at L' Escuela Massana in Barcelona. Lynne then came to London and did a 2-year Certificate in Sculpture at Sir John Cass City of London Polytechnic and went on to Central St Martins to complete Stage 1 of a Fine art Degree, stopping when she had her first child. She joined The Art Academy in 2007 and completed her Diploma in July 2011 with a First. She works in a mixture of mediums but specialises in sculptural ceramics, textiles and mixed media. She is particularly interested in 3-D soft sculpture and in her work she explores a wide range of materials to achieve her aims. Lynne also has a BA in Psychology from Trinity College, Dublin and a Masters in Clinical Psychology from University college, Dublin. Psychological themes are a major part of Lynne's art practice.

**Hiromi Scintu** completed a BA in illustration at KIAD and after travelling (including studying in Urbino Fine Art Academy, Italy) she returned to London in 2001 and joined The Art Academy to learn traditional techniques in sculpture. Hiromi finished her Fine Art Diploma in 2005 and stayed on as a resident artist, exhibiting and tutoring at the school until 2009. She is interested in an exploration of the human spirit; this coincides with her life long buddhist practice and all around ideology that one can heal themselves through foods, natural medicines and the arts, as they all have a positive energy flowing through them. Hiromi is always searching for the best medium to express herself and this is reflected in her exploration of decoration, pattern, colour and detail. In 2016, Hiromi created a piece for an exhibition called The Art of Species Conservation, which focused on the Amazon jungle, which she visited previously. Hiromi will be exhibiting a new body of work in needle felting and watercolours at Crouch End Open Studios in May this year.

[www.hiromiscintu.com](http://www.hiromiscintu.com)

## **Weekly breakdown**

Courses at the Art Academy offer a structured approach to ensure specific subjects, skills and methods are covered. Below is a daily breakdown of what will be covered. Please bear in mind that these classes will move with the pace of the class so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Week	Date	Topic/Skills covered	Location/ Tutor	What to Bring	Model
1	24 April	<p><b>Drawing with thread:</b> We will have a brief presentation on the history of embroidery and what it means to use thread and fabric in contemporary art practice.</p> <p>Then we will look at various fine artists who 'draw with thread', including Tracey Emin, Ghada Amer, Louise Bourgeois, Tilleke Schwarz and Michael Raedecker. You will be shown a number of hand embroidery stitches used by these artists in their work to create work that explores line, shape and pattern. We will look at how stitches can be varied according to size, spacing, direction, thread count and fabric to create different effects and avoid monotony in a piece of work. We will also look at different threads, string etc and how these can be used to create a variety of visual effects. You will then have the opportunity to try them out in a personal piece.</p>	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson	Every student needs to bring ONE of the following: a) a life drawing, portrait drawing, abstract image or landscape, either one of their own or a copy of an artist who inspires them, a painting they would like to embellish with thread, an old garment or piece of fabric to work on If anyone has an EMBROIDERY HOOP, please bring to class with sewing needles	NO
2	1 May	<p>The aim of weeks 2 and 3 is to learn felting techniques and to experiment with the technique.</p> <p><b>Wet felting:</b> We will be exploring making balls or rocks, resistance felting and trapping fibers</p> <p>Artists to look at: Pam de Groot and Machiko Agano</p>	Workshop Hiromi Scintu	If you have anything on this list, please bring to class: Any yarn, wool or fibers Embroidery threads	NO
3	8 May	<p><b>Dry felting:</b> We will learn how to use the felt needle to make shapes or work</p>	Workshop Hiromi Scintu	Thin hard plastic. bubble wrap, rolling pin, plastic	NO

		<p>from your ideas. we will use a number of techniques: cutting, adding, using colour to make images or patterns and how to incorporate an armature if necessary.</p> <p>We will use the felt pieces from week 5 and work on these, embellishing them with stitch and other materials.</p> <p>Artists to look at: Stephanie Metz, Atzuko Sasaki and Pamela A. MacGregor</p>		<p>tube, pool noodle, nylon curtains or tutu material, Japanese sushi rolling mat, empty squeeze bottles, pipe cleaners, Open cell foam (e.g. furniture foam), sewing needles, beads, sequins etc, palm sized stones (no sharp edges)</p>	
4	15 May	<p><b>AM</b> We will look at ways of sticking fabric to fabric: bonding and different kinds of applique techniques. So we will explore fabric rather than decorative stitches as a way of creating surface texture, shape and pattern.</p> <p><b>PM</b> We will explore the tradition of samplers and the stitches and canvas used in this kind of work, We will then look at how contemporary artists have used this art form</p>	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson	<p>Please bring in a circular form such as a bicycle wheel or rings of varying diameters. Alternatively you can bring in cardboard tubes that can be cut and a variety of objects, personal, found and/or a cardboard box</p>	NO
5	22 May	<p><b>Latex:</b> You will be introduced to latex and its properties and artists who have used latex in their work, such as Louise Bourgeois, Eva Hesse and Jorge-Pailos. You will then be set a project working with latex, thread and string.</p>	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson	<p>Objects to cover in latex, assorted fabrics</p>	NO
6	29 May	<p><b>Soft Sculpture:</b> We will look at soft sculpture and ways of building on an armature using fabric and binding. We will also look at the work of mixed-media artists such as Meret Oppenheim, Claes Oldenburg and Judy Chicago.</p>	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson	<p>Assorted fabrics and other textiles to use in sculpture construction</p>	Yes
7	5 June	<p>Personal project</p>	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson		NO

8	12 June	Personal project	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson		NO
9	19 June	Personal project	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson		NO
10	26 June	Personal project	Workshop Lynne Abrahamson		NO

## Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

Please see the 'what to bring' sections above in the weekly breakdown.

There will be a cost to cover materials and equipment provided by the Academy, payable on or before the first class; the exact cost will be communicated nearer the time, but should not exceed £15.

## Resources & Further Reading

### Books:

Rozsika Parker, 'The Subversive Stitch: Embroidery and the making of the Feminine'  
 Jac Scott, 'Textile Perspectives in Mixed-Media Sculpture', The Crowood Press, 2003  
 The Work of Louise Bourgeois and Eva Hesse  
 Jutta Feddersen, Soft Sculpture and Beyond  
 Françoise Tellier-Loumagne, 'The Art of Embroidery', Thames and Hudson  
 Joanna Inglot, 'The Figurative Sculpture of Magdalena Abakanowicz'

### Artists of interest:

Please see the weekly breakdown for artists to research.

### Welcome to The Art Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Art Academy and wish you the very best for your course. If at any time you would like to speak to a member of the team please feel free to contact us using the details below.

We value feedback on all of our courses so please keep us posted on your progress.

### Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at The Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Administrator, Aimee Brigginshaw:  
 info@artacademy.org.uk

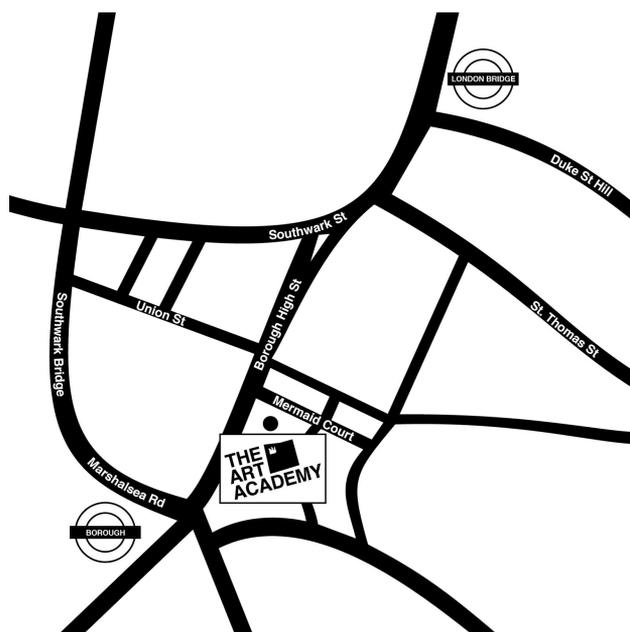
## Location

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations - follow signs for Borough High Street to exit. Please [click here](#) for a map.

Just moments walk from the Thames, the Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

White Cube  
Tate Modern  
Jerwood Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.



## Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common room located in the Barn, on the ground floor of the Mermaid Court building. Here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, five minutes walk away.

## Disabled Access

We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, but if you have mobility issues, please speak to a member of the Academy team before booking.

## Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online (painting or drawing classes) this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear old clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.

- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.