

Shifting Shapes - Couture Designs with Silk Hankies

3 - 5 day workshop by Nancy Ballesteros

Perth, Western Australia



Our journey in this workshop is to explore a uniquely tactile and abstract painterly-like method of working with Silk Hankies. Feltmakers first impressions of Silk Hankies are usually one of frustration; however, we aim to transform this experience. Silk Hankies possess unique properties which create gloriously lustrous and textural surfaces when laminated with minimal amounts of superfine merino and silk fabric. A variety of methods will be explored for creating different visual effects with these hankies.

There are a variety of different 'Shifting Shapes' patterns to choose from. A number of garments will be on hand for trying on. It is most important to find one that best suits your body shape and style. A few of the 'Shifting Shapes' designs we have created are simple aprons, wrap-a-round aprons and various styles of short and long tabards (which can be sewn or tied at the sides). Scaled-up patterns will be supplied for tracing; various sizes are marked on the patterns as well. One of the best features of these garments is that there will be no fussing with resists, thereby allowing a greater flexibility for fitting. You can choose to make a front only shape or for those who don't mind a bit more of a challenge a front and back styled garment can be tackled (tabards). Participants are also welcome to work on a scarf/wrap option if you feel the clothing styles are not for you.

Emphasis will be placed on QUALITY FELT. Specific fulling techniques will be taught to ensure proper felting. Embellishment ideas to be explored as time allows, in particular creating straps and ties with thread we create ourselves.

Nancy Ballesteros (Perth, Western Australia)

Nancy Ballesteros has passionately worked with fabric all her life. She spent most of her childhood sewing and then was introduced to spinning, felting and dyeing while at university. These elements quickly took over as her life's passion and she hatched a fibre business called Treetops Colour Harmonies in 1987. Since moving to Australia in 1990, Treetops continued to grow into a successful international web-based company offering felting supplies for discerning felt makers. She has taught felting for many years before taking a break to raise her two children and run Treetops. Since 2014, she began teaching again in Australia, Europe and the USA, mostly concentrating on unravelling the mysteries of working with Silk Hankies. Nancy was instrumental in developing the technique of Silk 'Paper'. She has written about felting in numerous publications and participated in many workshops and master classes. www.treetopscolours.com.au, www.facebook.com/treetopscolours





