

HANKY PANKY - How to play around with Silk Hankies

2 day Nuno Felting Workshop with Nancy Ballesteros of Treetops Colour Harmonies



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, our aim is 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.

We will also explore how to push the boundaries in scarf construction, as well as learning to design on both sides. A variety of silk fabrics may also be incorporated into the design work. 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, particularly machine and hand stitching with a self-made thread. At least one and possibly two scarves can be accomplished during the workshop.

Silk hankies traditionally have been underutilised as a source of silk by felt makers. You may ask "what is so special about a Silk Hanky"? A silk cocoon is spun by a caterpillar as one continuous strand of silk. Each hanky is made from a degummed silk cocoon that has been pieced and stretched over a square frame, layer upon layer. These hankies therefore have the amazing property of being very strong and behave as a continuous mass, the fibre have not been cut like in a silk top.



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.

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