

Sue Lawty

## Tactile Sensibility in Woven Tapestry

*'Our tactile experiences are elemental'* – Anni Albers

The overriding aim of this course is to hone eye, hand and intellect in the intricate interplay of structure, material and design in woven tapestry.

The tutor's own quiet, minimal and abstract works are strongly informed by the material of their construction. Whether working in linen, hemp, raphia or paper, she talks of the 'integrity of mark-making intrinsic to a particular thread or structure' and her focus is to 'make work that speaks its own vocabulary'. These ideas will form the focus for this workshop .

Participants will generate several carefully considered samples, each examining a distinct facet in the creation of woven tapestry cloth.

### Structure

Using a repertoire of interlaced structures, participants will investigate ways of 'drawing' with the weave to explore movement, mark, shape, pattern, rhythm, tone, texture, scale, interval, spacing or even time.

### Material

Encouraged to develop meticulous attention to detail, participants will research structure through a variety of materials. The objective here is to develop an acute sensitivity to tactile articulation and subtle textural nuances.

### Design:

The dialogue between material, process and idea.

By training sensibilities in both an acute awareness of structure and particularity of thread, participants will develop a heightened intuitiveness to the integration of these concepts and thus be better placed to bring greater rigour to the design content of their work.

Teaching is individual, personal and relaxed. Participants will leave with purpose and motivation to pursue their own unique woven tapestry language.

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## Materials

The tutor will bring a small, core selection of threads for your use in the workshop, including natural hand spun hemp from Nepal, linens, raphia, silks. (\$10 fee).

Please bring:

- Your own selection of warp threads, ideally a variety of gauges, colours, materials.
- Any of your own weft threads that would like to use e.g. twines, raphia, linen, hemp, nettle, ramie, cotton, paper, silk, fine wire, hand spun/hand dyed wools etc.

## Equipment

- Strong, simple frame – at least 18" x 12". Ideally no nails or individually cut warp grooves.
- Small sharp scissors
- Household fork or tapestry bobbins (whichever you like to use)
- Sewing needles & thread
- Flat 6" Ruler or thin lath of wood (for separating warp threads)
- Sketchbook/ notebook
- Camera
- Please bring one or two small pieces of previous work / samples  
It would be interesting for the tutor and other participants to see your current practice.