

Textiles: Tapestry Weaving

Ruby Red Workshop

October 30 – November 20, 2024

Wednesdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Educator: Etta Sandry, etta.sandry@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$130/ Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-70.*

Class Description:

In this 4-week class, students will be introduced to the techniques of tapestry weaving. They will learn about the basic elements of weaving (the loom, warp, and weft) and how to set up a frame loom for hand weaving. We will cover the fundamental weaving patterns and tapestry design techniques, such as plain weave, color block design, and methods for creating texture in the weave. The course will engage with the many examples of woven works from the museum's Indigenous Arts of North America and Textile and Fashion Collections as well as the work of contemporary weaving artists. Through this class, students will gain a deeper understanding of the textiles that we engage with in our everyday clothing, homes, and lives and become familiar with one of our oldest technologies: weaving.

What to Expect:

The first half of the class will focus on loom set-up, weave basics, and skill building. This class will offer a mix of hands-on making, art viewing, discussion, and designing. We will look at images of the work of contemporary tapestry weavers and students will be offered reading material to add context to the skill-based class. We will then take a group visit to the galleries to look at works from the museum's collection as inspiration for designing a final tapestry project. As students develop their skills, they will be encouraged to experiment with the materials they use in their weavings, using non-traditional wefts and found materials. Students will leave the class with one sampler weaving and one final piece and a tapestry loom for future weaving. Students do not need any prior knowledge for this course.

Timeline:

CLASS 1 – Introductions and Basics

- Introductions and community agreements
- Slide lecture/demonstration: Weaving basics
- Demonstration/activity: Setting up the tapestry loom
- Demonstration/Activity: Basic weave structures
- For next time: bring a found material to weave with

CLASS 2 – Texture Play

- Re-introductions, questions/reflections from last class
- Slide lecture: Contemporary Weaving Artists
- Demonstration/Activity: Texturing Techniques

- Demonstration/Activity: Finishing Techniques
- For next time: begin thinking about final design; optional reading

CLASS 3 – Designing

- Welcome and gather, introduce final project/check-in
- Gallery visits to woven textile objects
- Designing and beginning final weaving
- For next time: finish setting up loom and begin weaving, if you can; optional reading

CLASS 4 – Project

- Welcome and gather
- Project weaving
- Share work and wrap-up

Class Cancellation Policy:

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a “make-up” day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator’s schedule allows.

Educator:

Etta Sandry is an artist, educator, and facilitator from the midwestern United States, currently based in Boulder, Colorado. Her material-focused research is rooted in weaving and spans media through sculpture, writing, and installation. Etta completed her MFA in the Fibre & Material Practices program at Concordia University in the spring of 2021. She has exhibited her work in the United States and Canada and was the 2022 Experimental Weaver in Residence at the Unstable Design Lab in Boulder, Colorado. Her work as an educator has recently included positions teaching fibre structures and critical thinking & writing at Concordia. Etta has over ten years of experience working as an organizer and administrator in arts communities. Most recently, this has included roles as a board member at the artist-run centre articule in Montreal and as a volunteer staff in ACRE Residency’s fibre studio in Wisconsin.

www.ettasandry.com

Materials:

Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-70.

Plastic Weaving Needles (2 needles)	https://www.dickblick.com/products/plastic-weaving-needles/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dplastic%20needle
Cotton carpet warp yarn or similar (1 tube)	https://www.dickblick.com/products/maysville-cotton-warp/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dwarp
Two balls or skeins of medium weight (worsted or DK) yarn in different colors (1 ball/color)	https://www.dickblick.com/products/lion-brand-wool-ease-yarn/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dlion%20brand%20wool
OR A pack of assorted yarns such as	https://www.dickblick.com/products/harrisville-designs-yarn-packs/ OR https://www.yarn.com/products/blue-sky-fibers-woolstok-mini-hank-bundle
Plastic pick comb or fork	https://www.target.com/p/conair-grooming-large-hair-pick-color-dip-teal/-/A-79438123#lnk=sametab

Two 9" painting stretcher bars	https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-standard-stretcher-bars/
Two 12" painting stretcher bars	https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-standard-stretcher-bars/
Piece of scrap cardboard (8.5" x 11" or smaller is sufficient)	NA
Cut fabric strips, paper, and found materials	NA
Two balls or skeins of medium weight (worsted or DK) yarn in different colors (1 ball/color) - another nice option	https://www.yarn.com/products/cascade-yarns-220

LOCAL DENVER AREA MATERIALS RESOURCES

Fine Art materials

Meiningers
Guiry's

ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Tools & Hardware

Home Depot
Lowes
Habitat for Humanity Restore
K&K Surplus

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good

ONLINE RESOURCES

DickBlick
Paradise Fibers
Revolution Fibers
Amazon

Ruby Room Policies

CLEANUP:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet painting or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

CLASSROOM ACCESS

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

MATERIAL USAGE

Approved Processes & Materials

Please ask if you are unsure about using a material in the workshop.

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate
- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

Restricted Processes & Materials

- Aerosols
 - No spray paint onsite
 - Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

Flammable Materials

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

Disposal of Viscous Materials

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

SAFETY:

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use, or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.