

When fine Merino wool is applied in a fine layer to a gauzy, open weave natural cloth, the fibres can be encouraged to be worked through the weave and fix to the cloth.

This happens during the wet felting process; warm (but not hot) water is used and olive soap. The less wool used, the quicker and the more shrinkage occurs, but the amount of wool and whether one or two layers are used will depend on the desired result.

As a quilt maker, I am excited by this opportunity to create surface design, colour and texture in my cloth with such meditative but 'low tech' skills. Contrasting these textures with other fabrics in my quilts has given me my own voice as I continue to explore the possibilities.

NB Barbara will supply wool & cloth, (mainly silk but some cotton) for the workshop and prefers for participants to choose on the day to suit their pocket and ambition (typically £4-£5)! If you wish to bring your own materials Barbara will check their suitability at the start of the workshop. Here is a list of suppliers should you wish to buy your own. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE 'YOU WILL ALSO NEED' ITEMS**

Recommended Fabrics: (avoid synthetics, unless you want a challenge)

Silks: chiffon, georgette, silk gauze, tissue, pongee (habotai less than 5 mommies) uzbek margilan, silk mesh. Sari silks.

Cottons: muslin, turban muslin, cheesecloth.

Planning Colours: This is the fun bit, thinking about how colours of wool and different fabrics will work together. I like to mix plain and print, some hand printed.

White on White is another option, and can be dyed after the felting process

Suppliers:

Cloth: you need fine, slightly open weave NATURAL fabrics. Small offcuts and up to half metre pieces can all be used. 1-2 metres should be enough.

I have sourced chiffon, georgette & jemima (silk/cotton mix) from Whaleys

Silk scrim from Sheep on Mars www.etsy.com/uk/shop/sheeponmars

Recycled sari silks from Felt Creative www.feltcreative.co.uk

Silk Mesh from Treetops www.treetopscolors.com.au

Wool Anything less than superfine Merino will be inferior for this workshop, 19 microns or less is recommended. But you don't need either a lot of wool (200 gms) or a great range of colours if you extend your colour range by the selection of your fabrics.

A good range of **superfine merino wool** from World of Wool. www.worldofwool.co.uk Recycling is an opportunity for the cloth, but test (burn) to make sure silk look- alike are not synthetic.

YOU WILL ALSO NEED:

1-2 metres bubble wrap, fine bubbles, no holes. Smaller pieces can be used.

2 medium sizes towels, plastic bowl or tray for carrying wet cloth

Spray bottle, recycled from kitchen

Olive soap bar, or liquid soap for washing delicates

Half metre nylon net curtain for wetting out.

Tape measure, scissors, Camera, notebook

Barbara will have spare wool and cloth to try, foam rollers and other specialist equipment.