

Title: Sheep to Spindle: Wool Processing + Natural Dyes

Instructor: Ivy Guild

Dates: May 23-June 2, 2024

Arrival: May 23, 2024

Departure: June 2, 2024

Skill Level: All experience levels welcome, a patient attitude is encouraged

Mobility Level: Easy. There will be guided trips to local areas to collect natural materials and an opportunity to determine where and how far you go based on your own mobility level and comfort.

Materials List:

Required:

Rubber gloves

Hand-carders

Drop spindle

Sharp scissors

Dye pots & tools (best sourced from thrift stores)

Small pot with lid

Large pot with lid

Hot plate

Set of tongs

Reusable cups/bowls (plastic is fine)

Closed-toed shoes

Garden clippers

Reusable bags for foraged materials

Optional:

Pre-dyed wool rovings

Miscellaneous yarn

Tufting needle + frame

Tufting machine

Artificial dyes

Fabric, pre-spun yarn, clothing etc for dyeing (100% natural or animal fibers only)

Rigid heddle or wall loom

Suggested:

Bug repellent

Sketchbook or notebook

Sketching materials

Hiking poles

Sun protection

Provided:

Raw wool

Cotton squares for dye tests

Soap for washing wool

Walking stick

Alum, copper, and iron mordant materials

Kitchen scale for measuring mordant chemicals

Iron and ironing board

Shared tufting frame, needle, and frame machine

Shared wall loom

Wood, nails, and hammers to build wall looms

Gauze for cobweb felting

Workshop Description:

During this ten-night workshop in the Great Basin, participants will learn how to process raw wool from local 4 H Organization sheep and create natural dyes from the high desert landscape. We will begin the workshop by washing and learning how to hand-card fleece from local youth farmers. Next, we will do our own research on the natural dyes that can be harvested from invasive and native plants foraged around PLAYA; including an optional hike into Fremont National Forest to gather elder, manzanita, and mountain mahogany. We'll mordant our wool with several natural chemicals (alum, copper, and iron) and start experimenting with our foraged materials. While our dye tests simmer into greens, tans, and maybe some pink and red tones, we will practice spinning our wool into yarn for our fiber-based projects. Participants will have the opportunity to dye their own yarn and use their hand-dyed materials to tuft, weave, and felt personal artworks. This workshop will teach the basics of: washing, carding, spinning, mordanting, and dyeing raw wool, ethics of foraging, natural dyeing of plant and animal-based fibers, and the basics of hand-tufting, weaving, and felting. No experience is required but patience is highly recommended. Come prepared to slow down in the outback and practice meditative processes & mindfulness.

Bio: Ivy Guild is a Reno-based, interdisciplinary artist and educator invested in researching a post-Anthropocene world in order to illustrate speculative environments left behind after the 6th Great Extinction. Inorganic interactions between manmade and biological materials recur in fictional vignettes in her work. Guild pivots away from considerations of the survival of the planet and instead examines the following questions: will human beings survive? And: how many species will we take with us on our jolly ride into the grave of extinction? Guild uses her sculptural installations to

process the physical traumas and alterations her body has sustained. She confronts the unnatural fusion of the body with manufactured hardware and power tools that she has lived with throughout the creation of her practice. Guild received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Visual Arts and Art History from the University of San Diego and her Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art from the University of California, Irvine. In 2021, Guild received the Featured Art Prize in the Future Art Awards: Ecosystem X from Mozaik Philanthropy. Guild has been an artist-in-residence at PLAYA, Lighthouse Works, Vermont Studio Center, and ACRE. Guild has shown with Purdue University Galleries, ACRE, 1805 Gallery, CSU Long Beach, Wow Project LA, the Museum of Fine Arts at Florida State University, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, the William D. Cannon Art Gallery, San Diego Art Institute, and Sebastopol Center for the Arts among others. Her work is housed in Special Collections at Smith College and San Diego State University, as well as in private collections.

Agenda + Meals:

Day 1- Thur. May 23: 2:00-5:00 pm Arrival | Evening on your own

Day 2- Fri. May 24: Field trip to Lakeview for sheep shearing (TBD) or History of wool processing + washing raw wool | Afternoon: Intro to cleaning, carding, and spinning wool | **Group Dinner Provided by PLAYA**

Day 3- Sat. May 25 - Day 2 | Optional morning: Punchbowl foraging hike (4 miles round-trip) or independent studio time | Afternoon: How to mordant processed wool
May 26 - Day 3 | Morning: group forage for natural dyes on PLAYA campus, option to take observational sketches of foraged materials | Afternoon: Test foraged group dyes & process wool

May 27 - Day 4 | Morning: independent studio time | Optional early afternoon: learn about food-based natural dyes or independent studio time | Late afternoon: dry and heat-set wool tests

May 28 - Day 5 | Optional morning: Introduction to tufting pt. 1 hand-tufting or independent studio time | Optional afternoon: Introduction to tufting pt. 2 large-scale hand-tufting + machine-tufting or independent studio time

May 29 - Day 6 | Optional morning: Introduction to weaving pt. 1 dressing a wall loom + beginning weaving or independent studio time | Optional afternoon: Introduction to weaving pt. 2 patterns + inlays or independent studio time

May 30 - Day 7 | Optional morning: Introduction to felting pt. 1 hand-felting or independent studio time | Optional afternoon: Intro to felting pt. 2 wet felting or independent studio time

May 31 - Day 8 // Morning: independent studio time | Afternoon: independent studio time

June 1 - Day 9 | Morning: independent studio time | Afternoon: group share | **Group Dinner Provided by PLAYA**

June 2 - Day 10 /| Participants depart by noon