

COLOUR AND THE BAUHAUS TRADITION

Led by Fiona Rutherford



“The weavers developed a language of design which, although new at the time, has become timeless.”

This workshop is inspired by the Bauhaus weavers and their legacy of colour and design that continues to inform us nearly a hundred years on. Understanding how to balance and blend colour is fundamental to tapestry weaving. The focus will be on how to choose a colour palate and yarns to create a strong design through a simple use of pattern.

We will start with introductions and a discussion on Bauhaus design by looking at the work of Gunta Stolzl, Anni Albers and Sonia Delaunay and examine more closely how they used colour to create strong abstract patterns and lines in weave. I will also have examples of my own work to share and discuss with you how the Bauhaus ethic has influenced me.

We will then focus on a colour palate by making wraps to create a sense of balance. Choosing your yarns always takes time and is often the tricky part of a design. At this stage it would be good if you already have an idea or project that you want to develop or just try out. For those of you who may be uncertain I can help with providing design ideas.

Design is integral to this workshop. We will be looking at how to create asymmetrical patterns and lines through a controlled balance of colour.

We will then start weaving samplers. I encourage everyone to work at their own pace and style but you should have at least one or two samplers by the end. These, I hope, should get you excited about what you can do next in your tapestries. I always think it's important to keep an element of play during the workshop. This is time out to discuss and experiment and enjoy weaving!

WARPING YOUR FRAME

It isn't necessary that you all work at the same warp setting but I suggest a 4" wide warp sett at 8epi/3epc or 6epi/2.5epc. so there is not too much variation in the class. This is a good size for quickly weaving up ideas. You may want to put two warp strips on side by side depending on the size of your frame and how much you want to achieve.



weaversbazaar Masterclass Series

BRING

Sketchbook/notebook & drawing materials. Images/postcards/photographs that inspire you and/or a project design you would like to develop further.

BACKGROUND READING & REFERENCES

"Bauhaus Textiles: women artists and the weaving workshop" - Sigrid Wortmann Welte

"Bauhaus: Bauhaus Archiv" - Magdalen Droste

"Designs for Living" Josef + Anni Albers

Pinterest: <https://uk.pinterest.com/fionarutherford/>

These are some ideas for books that give you an sense of Bauhaus design to draw on for inspiration. I have added my Pinterest link as well where I have a Bauhaus board with images that also may inspire you.

I would also recommend looking at the work of Sonia Delaunay and Paul Klee. I have always loved Klee and he was a major influence on the weavers and while Delaunay is not strictly Bauhaus, her use of colour and design is great.

FIONA RUTHERFORD

Fiona Rutherford lives in Edinburgh where she has a home-based studio. She has been weaving and teaching workshops for over twenty-five years and her tapestries are marked by a strong use of colour and pared abstract imagery.

She exhibits widely in the UK and internationally and her tapestries are held in major public collections. She is currently exhibiting in "Here and Now" at the Holburne Museum in Bath and next year she will be exhibiting in ARTAPESTRY 5 in Denmark.

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