

DANCING ON THE TIGHTROPE

Are you ready for a totally new start to your work but are not sure how and where to begin? Then this class is for you. After looking closely at work at a variety of contemporary art, from street artists to new fabric designers, we will start on exciting new approaches to design that reflect the changing world aesthetic. Discussions and practice will include keeping a balance in the excitement of the new as you try novel ways and materials to bring new life and vitality into your work. You will make several small experimental studies before embarking on a larger piece.

Preparation and materials

This is about challenging yourself to do something totally new that you have not tried before. So start by looking at contemporary art and artists such as street art, textile artists and environmental and land art. From here choose fabrics, paper, and a variety of fibres that you may not have used before. You may want to work in a color palette that is new to you, or maybe you want to try textures, lines or a contemporary compositional format. Make a collection of possible materials, and in addition, bring the following:

- Several sheets of black, grey/neutral, white paper of different weights and textures. These will be used to tear and cut to try out compositions.
- A variety of alternative materials such as plastic or metal mesh that can be stitched or glued. You may want to include found objects.
- All purpose glue
- Sewing machine, in good working order with feet for regular sewing, as well as specialist feet you might have for cording or zippers. Do not buy feet especially, but bring those you have already.
- A variety of machine needles and threads of different sizes and weights. A variety of hand sewing needles and threads of different thicknesses and weights.
- Rotary cutter with sharp blade and cutting mat, and plastic rulers of your choice. Scissors for cutting paper and thread.
- Your choice of fusible
- A variety of fabrics. Include some irresistible favorites for comfort and some new colors and textures you have not tried before. Make sure you include solid colors in a variety of values.
- A variety of pens, pencils and other drawing instruments that you could use for mark making on paper or fabric.

Bring images of the works that have excited, and maybe scared you. Consider what it is you might want to do to give a whole new look to your work. You do not have to know exactly what you are going to do....just that you are going to have a time and a place to do something wonderfully exciting as you try a variety of approaches.