

LOUSIE HALL

FABRIC TAPESTRY WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to be thought provoking and open up a conversation on personal identity and heritage. Using different fabrics to create a tapestry which in many different cultures is used to represent and document historical events and culture. Inspired by works such as Faith Ringgold 'Flag Story Quilt (1985) and Theaster Gates 'Civil Tapestry 4' (2011).

Materials:
Sewing Needle
Embroidery thread (Black, White, Blue, Green, Red, Yellow)
Fabrics (10x10cm – 5)
Optional – Sewing Pins

What stitches to use



Running Stitch

A basic stitch in hand-sewing and embroidery, if you are a beginner I would suggest starting here as it is easy learn.

- Thread the needle and tie a knot at the end.
- Start by inserting your needle from the underneath of the fabric.
- Once you have pulled your needle through to the front of your fabric, place the needle back in about ½ cm going forward.
- Pull through into the underneath and push back out to leave the same gap again.
- Continue to create a running stitch.

Backstitch

- Similar to a running stitch but with this stitch you do not leave a gap.
- Thread the needle and tie a knot at the end.
- Place your first stitch from underneath, the same as with a running stitch.
- This time instead of going forwards, go backwards to fill the gap.
- Pull the needle through and repeat to create a Backstitch.

Other stitches to try are a Cross Stitch or Chevron Stitch.

Building your tapestry

Collect different types of fabrics for example African wax print, Old bed sheet, scrap fabric.

Cut these into different shapes.

Choose one fabric to be the background layer, this will also determine the size of your tapestry.

Place the other pieces on top to form the first layer of your tapestry.

When you have decided on a place use different stitches to attach them.

Once you have completed the first layer you can repeat this step however many times you like to build up shapes and textures.



Spend time thinking about what attracted you to the fabrics and if they work well together as layers.



After you have sewn all the fabric down, you can add embellishments by using different stiches, including cross stich and running stich to make words or objects. You can also paint or use fabric / pen markers to add objects and texts into the tapestry.



Think about where you will display your finished tapestry, how it makes you feel and what it represents to you.

