

# Art Academy

## Elective Skills Workshop Course

<b>Course Title</b>	Textiles, Latex & Assemblage
<b>Tutor</b>	Farnoush Aminimoghadam and Shane Waltener
<b>Studio session Dates</b>	Wednesdays; 22/04/26 - 10/06/26 (8 Sessions) <b>No Reading Week</b>
<b>Session Times</b>	10.30am - 4.30pm
<b>Course Code</b>	E2503S53
<b>Studio</b>	Bankside Studio 5 (Ceramics)
<b>Materials Cost</b>	£15 (See Below)
<b>Course Fees</b>	£545

### Course overview

This elective provides an introduction to textiles within fine art practice. You'll use both traditional and modern approaches to textiles, including wet and dry felting, embroidery and applique, latex, weaving and soft sculpture. Throughout the course, you'll explore how and why contemporary artists employ textiles within their practice.

### Learning outcomes

#### *Students will be able to:*

- Create a range of textile samples.
- Experiment with latex, 2D and 3D.
- Create 3-D soft sculpture.
- Draw with thread using hand stitching techniques.
- Use wet and dry felting techniques.
- Apply textile processes and techniques in an experimental fine art context.
- Analyse the work of others, applying findings to their own work.
- Research, plan and complete a self initiated project.
- Apply safe working practices at all times.

### What Level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is suitable for all levels.

### About your tutor

**Farnoush Amini** is a London-based Iranian artist and an Art Academy alumni herself. Her work has been influenced by her lived experience through revolution, war and suppression. She questions divisions created by politics, religion and cultural differences and their impact on societies and women in particular. By using symbolism or a gesture in her artworks, she aims to communicate a hidden message to the viewer in her installation or performance art. She explores materials such as human hair, textiles, feathers, metal, clay, concrete, ice, tarmac, ready-made objects and sound. By placing the familiar object in an unfamiliar form or space she overwhelms the viewer with a sense of entrapment or unease. She has exhibited internationally and was shortlisted by ArtEvol at Saatchi gallery, London in 2025. She is a twice award winner of Passion For Freedom Art Festivals London 2018 and New York 2024. She was selected for the Summer Show Award by Royal Society of Sculptors in 2024 London. She won Thirsk Hall Sculpture Garden Award in 2023-2024 in North Yorkshire. She was invited to exhibit at the "A Political Art" exhibition by the U-Jazdowski Museum of Contemporary Arts in 2021-2022 Warsaw, Poland. She is also a twice winner of "Sheros Revoluciones Prize" funded by British Arts Council, in 2019 & 2020 London.

<https://www.farnoushaminiart.com>

**Shane Waltener's** art practice is rooted in ideas about ecology, sustainability and reuse. Waltener's sculpture, installation and performance work draw inspiration from a range of craft practice from ceramics to textile weaving and basketry to dance and movement. Working in participatory settings, Waltener uses making processes to facilitate personal, social and cultural histories to be exchanged and create new knowledge and imaginaries. Instagram:

## Weekly breakdown

Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered. Please bear in mind that these sessions will move with the pace of the group, so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Location & Tutor	What to bring
1	Wednesday 22/04/26	<p><b>Drawing with thread</b></p> <p>Presentation and group discussion on the history of embroidery and what it means to use thread and fabric in contemporary art practice.</p> <p>We will look at various fine artists who 'draw with thread', including Tracey Emin, Ghada Amer, Louise Bourgeois, Tilleke Schwarz and Michael Raedecker, Mindy Lee and Celia Pym</p> <p>Demonstration of a number of hand embroidery stitches used by these artists in their work that explore line, shape and pattern. We will look at how stitches can be varied according to size, spacing, direction and fabric to create different effects. We will also look at different threads, string etc and how these can be used to create a variety of visual effects. You will then have the opportunity to try them out in a personal piece.</p>	Farnoush Amini	<p>Please bring a sewing kit to each session: needles, pins, embroidery threads, cotton thread, stitch ripper, tailors chalk (or just a piece of coloured chalk) and scissors</p> <p>You need a piece of fabric to practise on your stitches on (calico will be best but not essential)</p> <p>Also bring ONE of the following: a) a life drawing, portrait drawing, abstract image or landscape, either one of your own or a copy of an artist who inspires you, b) a painting you would like to embellish with thread, c) an old garment or piece of fabric to work on or d) a photo to stitch on</p> <p>If you have an embroidery hoop please bring that too.</p>
2	Wednesday 29/04/26	<p><b>Applique:</b></p> <p>You will explore different applique techniques-ways of sticking fabric to fabric, bonding using heat and stitching. These techniques explore manipulations of the fabric surface using pattern, layering, depth and texture.</p> <p>Some of the key artists that we will be looking at are, Jonathan Baldock, Annie Whiles, Judy</p>	Farnoush Amini	<p>Please bring a sewing kit</p> <p>If you have any images you would like to use as a template for your applique, please bring them along.</p> <p>Old scraps of Fabric</p>

		Chicago & Lara Schnitger		
3	Wednesday 06/05/26	<p><b>Cordage into Knotting and Stitching</b></p> <p>Introduction to a number of historical and contemporary practitioners working with textiles processes making objects, installations and performances, including Shane Waltener's recent Building Action Group and Flax Exchange projects.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to making cordage, a pre-human craft that lead to the advent of architecture, basketry and textiles. Students will then use their cordage to stitch, knot and plait using a range of 2D and 3D textile and basketry making techniques also introduced to them - finger crochet, hook crochet, coiling, looping and plaiting and looping.</p> <p>Processing a range of natural and man made materials, students will consider the provenance of materials, the relationship between textiles and other forms of making across art and design and potential these techniques offer for the development of their own creative ideas.</p> <p>Working solo and in groups, practical activities will lead to discussions and the recording of students' findings in the form of instructables / scores, cataloguing their new knowledge.</p>	Shane Waltener	<p>sketchbook drawing and painting materials</p> <p>needle and threads</p> <p>a range of yarns and twines</p> <p>a range of other linear materials - plant based materials, tape, cord, electrical cables..</p> <p>an old t-shirt and/or jumper</p> <p>plastic bags</p> <p>scissors and scalpel</p> <p>cardboard</p> <p>crochet hook (optional)</p>
4	Wednesday 13/05/26	<p><b>Knotting and Stitching into Weaving</b></p> <p>Introduction to a range of traditional weaving techniques and contemporary applications of these looking at the work of Hella Jongerius, Sheila Hicks, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Chiharu Shiota, Tadek Beutlich, Raisa Kabir, Michael Beutler, Lenore Tawney, amongst others.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the idea of working with warp and weft first through drawing, then creating a piece of textile on a weave card using a range of yarns and other linear materials. The woven piece will then be reinterpreted 2D through drawing and paperwork.</p> <p>A further interpretation of this work will have students explore working in a much larger scale weaving freeform in space and also creating vertical two bar looms, making their own heddles to work these.</p> <p>As with the 'cordage into knot and stitch day', students will record their findings writing or drawing instructables / scores, so to create a catalogue of the new knowledge generated throughout the day.</p>	Shane Waltener	<p>sketchbook drawing and painting materials</p> <p>a range of yarns and twines</p> <p>a range of other linear materials - plant based materials, tape, cord, electrical cables...</p> <p>an old t-shirt and/or jumper</p> <p>plastic bags</p> <p>scissors and scalpel</p> <p>cardboard</p> <p>crochet hook (optional)</p>

5	Wednesday 20/05/26	<p><b>Latex as a Fine Art Material:</b></p> <p>You will be introduced to latex and its properties. You will be working with latex, applying it to thread, string, fabric, lace as well as using it to cast an object.</p> <p>Some of the key artists that we will be looking at are Louise Bourgeois, Eva Hesse and Jorge-Pailos.</p>	Farnoush Amini	Bring in objects to cover in latex, such as shells, household objects, as well as natural materials such as leaves, stones etc (no metals, as the latex interacts with metal and tarnishes it)
6	Wednesday 27/05/26	<p><b>Wet Felting 2d &amp; 3d</b></p> <p>This week you will learn different felting techniques, flat felting, trapping fibres and making patterns. As well as making 3-D forms. Some of the key artists/designs that we will be looking at are, Stephanie Metz, Atzuko Sasaki, Pam de Groot, Paola Citterio and Machiko Agano</p>	Farnoush Amini	<p>Sewing Kit</p> <p>If you have any ball wool that you would like to use to add texture and colour please bring them along.</p>
7	Wednesday 03/06/26	<p><b>Soft Sculpture and Needle Felting</b></p> <p>You will be introduced to different ways of making 3d soft sculpture using clothing, wire, and wadding. As well as needle felting.</p> <p>Some of the key artists that we will be looking at are, Claes Oldenburg, Annette Mesager, Emma Talbot, &amp; Craig Fisher</p> <p>We will begin 1:1 tutorials to discuss ideas for your personal project.</p>	Farnoush Amini	<p>Sewing Kit</p> <p><a href="#">Namner Felting Needles 104 pcs Needle Felting Kit, Felting Supplies, Wool Felting 36/38/40/42 Gauge, Triangular, Star, Cone, Spiral</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/css/order-history?ref_=nav_orders_first">https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/css/order-history?ref_=nav_orders_first</a></p> <p>Please bring along your felt from week 8</p> <p>If you have an old woollen jumper, old clothes, tights, gloves and fabrics. Wadding (could be from an old cushion) please bring that along too.</p>
8	Wednesday 10/06/26	Personal project	Farnoush Amini	Materials you wish to use for your personal project.

## Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

**YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS.**

Please see the 'what to bring' sections above in the weekly breakdown.

There will be a charge of no more than £15 to cover materials and equipment provided by the Academy, payable on the first class.

## Resources & Further Reading

Please note reading lists are suggested, not required.

Author	Year	Title	Publisher	Location
Parker, R.	2019	<i>The Subversive Stitch: Embroidery and the making of the Feminine</i>	Bloomsbury Visual Arts	London
Scott, J.	2003	<i>Textile Perspectives in Mixed-Media Sculpture</i>	The Crowood Press	Ramsbury
Tellier-Loumagne, F.	2006	<i>The Art of Embroidery</i>	Thames and Hudson	London
Feddersen, J.	1993	<i>Soft Sculpture and Beyond</i>	Craftsman House	Blundeston
Inglot, J.	2004	<i>The Figurative Sculpture of Magdalena Abakanowicz</i>	University of California Press	Berkeley, California
Gordon, B	2011	Textiles, The Whole Story. Uses, Meaning, Significance	Thames and Hudson	London
Porter, J	2019	<i>Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles in Contemporary Art</i>	Phaidon	London
Vannier, C	2019	<i>Threads: Contemporary Embroidery Art</i>	Thames and Hudson	London
Wayland Barber ,E	1995	<i>Women's Work The First 20,000 Years -Women, Cloth and society in Early Times</i>	W.W Norton	NewYork

### Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)

V&A Museum & online, Fashion & Textiles Museum, London, Tate Website, Craft Council Website, Handweaving Studio (supplier) , Berwick Street, Soho has lots of febrice shop

### Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

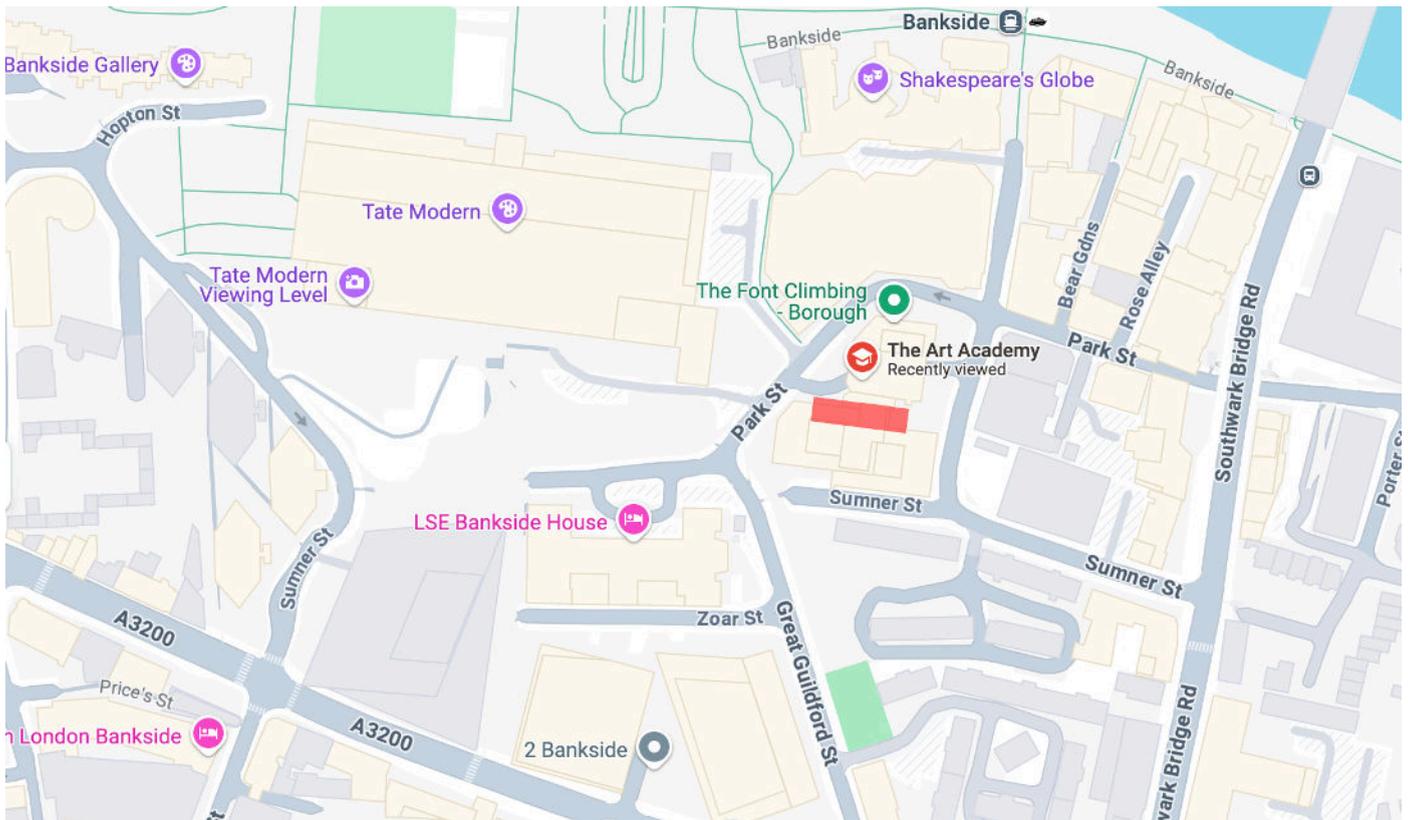
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Reception at [info@artacademy.ac.uk](mailto:info@artacademy.ac.uk)

**Locations** - (Please check course location at the top of this document)

### Art Academy – Bankside Campus

185 Park Street  
London SE1 9BL

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services), Southwark (Jubilee Lines) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please [click here](#) for a map, what three words input.



Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

- White Cube
- Tate Modern
- The Globe
- Bankside Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

### Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common area located in the basement level of the building, here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, fifteen minutes walk away.

For health and safety reasons, all students, staff, and tutors must use a sealable keep-cup or container for hot drinks. Mugs and open cups are not permitted in our teaching spaces. As we do not provide keep-cups, please bring your own if you wish to use the coffee and tea facilities in our Hub area.

### Disabled Access

The campus has an elevator and has no threshold from the street level providing full step free access. We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, if you have mobility issues please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

### **Further Details**

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.