



Tutor: **Dagmar Binder**  
Course Title: **Sculptural Felts**  
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### Student Requirement List

Please give yourself time to prepare, as your materials will be central to the development of your work and enjoyment of the class.

Please bring a mug or cup for morning and afternoon tea in the classroom, and a Name Tag!



### *Sculptural wallhangings – Materials*

In this course will work with felt art in an experimental way, so it is difficult to tell exactly how much wool you will need. The amount will depend very much on your personal projects.

A wallhanging with lots of 3d elements will require more material than a flat one. But even dimensional works with lamellae, scales etc. don't have to be heavy in weight.

Felt as a material develops quite a strong presence in a room, even if it is not so very big and made with relatively thin layers of wool. Stability not only depends on thickness of layers, but from architectural aspects, too, such as the position of 3d elements, the type of connections we use and how gravity would influence them. We will explore that in our sampling phase to help you planning your final project.

For the learning process, I would recommend using 3 or more different colors to be able to see each layer clearly. You may think of a contrast of inside/outside or front/back colours, or a blend of colours through all layers. Usually, colours tend to look more 'alive' when blending several shades.

We will work with a minimum of 3 layers of wool, 2 layers of wool tops and 1 of wool batts. When choosing your colours, think of a back, an intermediate and a front layer.

### *Wool:*

In total you may need 1 – 2 kg of wool  
approximately 50 % of this needs to be fine merino tops 19 - 21 micron  
and 50 % merino or other soft batts (19 – 27 micron)

You may use coarser types of wool, but detailed structures show more clearly with fine wool types, because the surface will become smooth and less hairy. If you use coarser types of wool, it is better to allow for a generous size of 3d elements and avoid tiny details.  
(If you want a smooth surface, you can place fine wool 19 mic in the surface layer).

Optional: For surface effects or texture contrast you may want to use some silk or other fibres like viscose, ramie, curly wool etc.  
Some chiffon silk or margilan silk fabric can also give interesting surface effects.

In general, I like to combine batts and tops.

Batts will provide body and density to the felt, their rather short and frizzy fibres are very active in the felting process and act as a good "glue" when connecting several elements. But batts are elastic in all directions and have no specific stability or definition.

Tops can help to define shrinking directions, stability, produce firm bonds between several components.

Within the time frame of this workshop we will focus on smaller formats.

Depending on the amount of details, a 3d work can be quiet time consuming. I think, it's more important to practise and understand techniques instead of producing a large size work.

I would suggest a starting size of max. 90x70 cm.

### *Felting equipment.*

- 2x bubble wrap 150 x 120 cm (or felting mat and 1 x bubble wrap)
- roller stick (pool noodle or pipe insulation) min. 120 cm wide
- ca. 80x80cm plastic mesh (mosquito-netting or polyester netting)
- olive or other plant based soap
- sprinkler bottle (ball-brauser), a plastic bowl for water, sponge, towels
- about 1x1 m cotton cloth for rolling
- tape-measures, large and small, sharp scissors
- felting needles, sponge, needles and thread for repair situations
- your favourite felting tools like palm washboards etc.
- paper, rulers, scissors and a glue stick for experimenting
- (To visualize a project, it can be very helpful to make a paper model.)
- resist (or spacer sheet) material:
- soft, opaque plastic, for example a pack of trash bags from the supermarket ( size 120 l)
- (Try to find a color in contrast to your wool, so you can see your layout clearly.)

*Please bring your own wool supplies and felting equipment!*

*My luggage capacity will not allow bringing materials for all my students, and I'm mostly working with Australian merinos, so you would have them on site.*

*And don't forget about some ideas, inspirational pictures or sketches for your individual project.*

*Looking forward to an exciting and inspiring creative week with you!*