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QSDS 2021 5 Days Judy Rush Needle Felted Creatures With Armature

What is a needle felted creature? How can we bring them to life? This workshop will explore how to build creatures living only in your imagination using wool and the technique of needle felting. Participants will construct their own unique being using a simple armature. This is a fun workshop, lots of laughing. Come join the fun. Your creature will thank you!

Needle felting: a process using barbed needles to remove the air between the fibers allowing the fibers to form a stiffened structure.

The workshop will begin with a short discussion about the basic element in needle felting, the fiber, and quickly move into why and how it felts. We will explore concepts in armature and 3-D needle felted objects and bring your new understanding of the material to a final sculpture. We will explore deep sea, underwater rarely seen creature as well as macro images of insects as inspiration.

We will discuss covering the armature, adding body parts and general shape development in needle felting. Using a single needle, we will add color and talk about how color combines with the sculpture to help to bring to life your imaginable creature. Finishing the surface is an important part of needle felting. We will spend the last day and a half working on finishes. In the end, participants will have the ability to make armatures and create a moveable, needle felted characters. Participants will acquire techniques useful to create any three dimensional shape.

Class Supplies

- A tripod. For your camera or phone so I can watch you as you needle felt.
- Thread. Any color, and type.
- sewing needles for your thread.
- Large eye needle. Blunt point and sharp point darning needle.
- Sewing supplies for embellishments. Beads, threads, fabrics, yarns, silk, anything you want to incorporate into the needle felting.
- measuring tape
- ruler
- assorted colors MERINO wool or silk fiber for shine and texture
- scissors. Both fabric and trim scissors is always a good idea for any fiber workshop.
- sketch book and pencils for sketching ideas.
- straight pins
- Materials from the materials list, see below:

MATERIALS LIST: I choose my class materials very carefully. I am very interested in your success in learning this craft. I want you to have the best possible experience. Using materials that are known to work well ensures you won't be fighting with the material as you shape the experience. Please consider purchasing the materials in this list for the class.

If you already have materials you would like to use, please contact me.

This list will explain each item and any suitable substitutes. In some instances, I have included multiple sources. It is sometimes advantageous to purchase more from the same reseller. I have given you that option when possible. I have included prices where I can. Prices DO NOT include shipping except where indicated.

****ASSORTED COLORS OF MAORI WOOL:** https://www.etsy.com/listing/597577185/carded-maori-needle-felting-wool-multi?gpla=1&gao=1&&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping_us_a-craft_supplies_and_tools-yarn_and_fiber-batts&utm_custom1=ccde16f8-c2f6-46f8-9417-c1153d1db6a4&utm_content=go_1843970764_76535544464_346429177100_aud-301856857358:pla-295939759326_c__597577185&utm_custom2=1843970764&gclid=Cj0KCQjwgJv4BR CrARIsAB17JI7uzmb0qZQRun2UzRXm2OYMSMPfEkxc3tTDqtu7Uw1KwJADCc0fK7saAtNeEALw_wcB

This is a lot of luscious wool. It can be shared by 2 people for this workshop. \$53.48 (includes \$13.97 shipping.) This Etsy seller offers a 10% discount to participants in this class.

I love needle felting with this wool. I can give you a source for larger quantities but this is the best assorted color, small quantity Maori wool I can find. I have tried other needle felting wools but this one lies flat and felts with very little effort. This wool has very short and some long, springy fibers. Hands down, the best wool to experience needle felting. If you choose to use another vendor, in general, springy, short, curly fibers blend best.

CORE WOOL: This is an inexpensive, lesser quality wool used to build up around the armature. Here are 3 sources depending on how much you want to purchase. We will be using somewhere between 1 and 3 ounces per creature. Attendees should expect to create one well defined, detailed creature or 2-3 smaller, less detailed creatures in this course so plan for at least 8 ounces.

<https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/core-wool-batt> \$17.95 for 8 oz.

<https://woolery.com/felting-core-wool.html> \$15.49 for 500 grams/1 pound

<https://rhindsaywool.com/product/pennsylvania-quilt-batting/> 1 pound quantities, \$12.50 awkward web site but this is the path: "Pennsylvania Quilt Batt" from RH Lindsay Wool. Products->Batting->Pennsylvania Quilt Batting. The link will only take you to their home page.

****NEEDLE FELTING NEEDLES:** We will be working with a single needle only. I use SPIRAL needles only. I find them easier to poke with. I have tried all the different types and use the Spiral 38 gauge needle the most. Purchase at least 5.

<https://www.mielkesfiberarts.com/product/felting-needles/> 38 gauge Spiral (\$5.00)

If you already have needles, we will be working with 38-40 gauge needles or 'fine' needles.

****HIGH DENSITY FOAM PADS:**

You can get these anywhere needle felting supplies are sold. 8"x8" seems to be a great size for needle felting. Here are 2 different sources.

https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Needle-Felting-Foam-10-x-7-Earth-Harmony-Series_p_24.html 10" x 8" \$8.95

<https://woolery.com/wool-pets-needle-felting-foam-surface.html> a 6"x6" pad

**** CHENILLE PIPE CLEANERS:**

We will use chenille pipe cleaners to help the wool grab onto the armature easier.

https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Chenille-Stems-Natural-Colors-100-pieces_p_779.html \$3.59

https://www.michaels.com/chenille-pipe-cleaners-100ct-by-creatology/10525014.html?r=g&cm_mmc=PLASearch--google--MICH_Shopping_US_N_Kids_N_Smart_BOPIS_N--&Kenshoo_ida=&kpid=go_cmp-9638984798_adg-99988418355_ad-425991104288_pla-1005827419126_dev-c_ext-_prd-10525014&gclid=CjwKCAiA7939BRBMEiwA-hX5J3JOaioJfrLuFnSX4k1-LQrfmIPXOfkemIHcmihYrc9vb8__PQg9qxoCEm4QAvD_BwE \$2.99 for 100 white.

**** CLOTH COVERED ARMATURE WIRE:**

https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Wire-Armature-18-Gauge--24-pieces_p_148.html \$3.69

You can purchase armature wire from any craft store that sells flower arranging products. I get

mine from Michaels when I need them quickly. **Be sure to purchase 18" cloth covered lengths.** I use green cloth stem wire by ashland. (michaels link: <https://www.michaels.com/green-cloth-stem-wire-by-ashland/10174350.html> \$2.59 for 12 stems)

**** OPTIONAL: 22 GAUGE WIRE:** This wire is useful when trying to attach two or more wires that are not secure enough.

https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Wire-Armature-Silver-22-Gauge-38yards-_p_1745.html
\$2.49.

FINGER PROTECTION: [https://www.etsy.com/listing/794777995/dimensions-needle-felting-finger-guards?](https://www.etsy.com/listing/794777995/dimensions-needle-felting-finger-guards?gpla=1&gao=1&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping_us_d-craft_supplies_and_tools-yarn_and_fiber-yarn&utm_custom1=_k_CjwKCAiA7939BRBMEiwA-hX5J6xpg3sSAOfOW5300SrfyOvAszyfWROLK2h73nBE7BGjg4pHb1gY_RoChtgQAvD_BwE_k_Armature_2021_QSDS_Needle_Felting_&utm_content=go_2063557915_76452865575_367965825003_aud-966866687174:pla-298168501185_c_794777995_122738953&utm_custom2=2063557915&gclid=CjwKCAiA7939BRBMEiwA-hX5J6xpg3sSAOfOW5300SrfyOvAszyfWROLK2h73nBE7BGjg4pHb1gY_RoChtgQAvD_BwE)

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**** TOOLS YOU MAY HAVE AT HOME:**

Needle nose pliers

wire cutters

Regular pliers

Scissors pencils and notebook

Sewing needles- size 14-16 darning. Very strong, long, non bending and thin sewing needle. We will use these to pull up felted fiber. Needles need to be strong.

<https://www.amazon.com/Dritz-56Y-D-Darners-Needles-7-Count/dp/B003WM9RYI>

If you have an assortment of needles and need to know how to identify them Here is a link to a great needle sizing resource. https://www.jjneedles.com/images/needles-guide/Hand_Sewing_Needle_Size_Guide_Type_Length.pdf

Skewers or a #1 double pointed knitting needle. Here is a link to skewers if you are unsure what I am talking about. You will only be using 1 skewer. 2 - 3mm is ideal. (This is the cheapest quality skewer you can find! It's flimsy and thin. Just how I want it)

https://www.target.com/p/natural-home-100ct-skewers/-/A-46982600?ref=tgt_adv_XS000000&AFID=google_pla_df&fndsrc=tgtao&DFA=71700000012732784&CPNG=PLA_Kitchen%2BShopping_Local&adgroup=SC_Kitchen&LID=700000001170770pgs&LNM=PRODUCT_GROUP&network=g&device=c&location=9014965&targetid=pla-321450796496&ds_rl=1246978&ds_rl=1247068&ds_rl=1248099&gclid=CjwKCAiA7939BRBMEiwA-hX5J5uc5iPcBT-UCTBZ1OCpbhfwgvriqJVxA_PlcAspq1o2pwb_d6zw3xoCzLUQAvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Tripod and cell phone or iPad holder. I use a multitude of camera angles. I have a long arm flexible phone holder, a small table top tripod and a large tripod. You will need only one ;-). If you want me to be able see what you are doing over zoom, you will need to have your hands free and your camera steady.

Inspiration source: Inspiration will be bugs and underwater, colorful, odd creatures. I recommend this book to better understand the subject matter you will be drawing from. This reading is totally optional but utterly enjoyable. **Extraordinary Insects: The Fabulous, Indispensable Creatures Who Run Our World** by Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson. \$11.69 kindle format. Sadly, there are no pictures.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07M9LN6C9/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_d_asin_title_o00?

ie=UTF8&psc=1 I will be providing inspiration in the form of images.