

AnaRita de Albuquerque

residential felting workshop



Domínio Vale do Mondego - Portugal
26 June - 2 July 2016

Felting Blue

A textile workshop exploring the use of craft photography and felt making in an amazing voyage through both these magical processes.

The aim of this workshop is to teach and reflect upon the use of craft photography on textiles, photography is something we are used to see supported on paper, and I first learned this process myself on paper. If you think about it, paper is a textile and many of the techniques used on paper can somehow be translated to textile. But I'm a textile and felt artist and that's really my thing, so I felt like crossing borders and create felted pieces that include prints and imaging through this amazing and very ancient method called cyanotype.

The cyanotype technique was first discovered by accident by Anna Atkins in 1842, who can be considered the first photographer in history. The process itself is simple, very affordable, does not require any special skills or tools and uses the sun light to fix the photo, but it is of enormous creative value, as it allows beautiful blue prints and many different approaches on creating images, either with natural elements like leaves, sticks, feathers and spider webs, or with modern photos from your camera, a computer and a clear printable sheet.

Combined with felt making, interesting layouts and inclusions, maybe even embroidery we have the ingredients to make magical and meaningful textiles.

Several samples, of different sizes and different combinations of silk and wool, to keep, to use and a larger master piece created by each student during the course. This larger piece can be a sculptural wall hanging, a large scarf or an impressive light object.



About me

My name is Ana Rita de Albuquerque, I have a deep passion for textiles in general and for wool in particular. I've been working with textiles my entire life, literally, I grew up in Covilhã, the main city for textiles and wool, not far from where this course is being held and it has been a part of my life since I can remember.

I first graduated as a linguist, but the wool calling was just too strong, so, I graduated again as a designer, but that was also not exactly what I was looking for. I first discovered felt making from a friend who was at the end of her career and hopping to pass the felt torch.

It was one of those moments when everything suddenly made sense and all that knowledge and baggage I already had could be put to use in something I loved and knew I would be doing for the rest of my life.

I never stopped felting since then, I have learned a lot by myself and developed my very own approach to felt making. I specially enjoy crossing borders and make different techniques come together in a meaningful way.

This workshop will be one the first I'm teaching on this particular technique, so it is a great chance to come and learn first hand what my approach to wool and textiles is all about!



A textile workshop exploring the use of craft photography and felt making

Workshop Programme:

Day one

Introduction to craft photography and cyanotype techniques, we will talk about its history, uses and possibilities. We will have a look at the materials and make the emulsion (very simple) for our creations. Sample making in the afternoon, using elements of your choice (I will also bring a box full of interesting things to use) like things we find in nature during a walk, we will make beautiful samples to keep or use during the course, some samples just with silk, others with felt so students can become familiar with the process and its outcome in order to plan for everyone's larger piece!

Day two

We will finish the samples we started on the first day, an short exploration of overdyeing cyanotypes and then include interesting felt layouts and inclusions. In the afternoon we will talk about what we achieved so far and plan for the large piece, I will introduce the students to negative making with photoshop and print clear sheets with selected photos students may wish to include in their large work.

Day three

We will start by sensitising the fabric, a large piece requires extra care. While the large pieces are drying, we will look at the layout we want and start planning for it, prepare the fabrics for sun exposure and eventually rinse them until finished. For those who wish to another session of overdyeing the print with acid dyes.

Day four

Today we will learn how to create a mask on the cyanotyped fabric in order to protect the areas we do not wish to felt. Then the large wool work, portuguese wool will be starting where and I always love to instruct everyone on this subject, the many races and the main differences between them.

Laying out the wool, introducing layers, folds, pleats and inclusions to create a dramatic effect on the final project. Felting and cutting to reveal the internal cyanotype image, on one or more areas.

Day five

Completion of the work, final fulling and shaping of the wool and final details. We will reflect on all that has been learned and shared and proudly present it in a small exposition.



Programme: Everyday we start with an extensive breakfast buffet. The 2-course lunch with freshly made salads, soup and pies will be served on the terrace. The 3-course dinner is served in the diningroom or weather permitting on the terrace. Once in a typical Portuguese restaurant

Day 1 : Sunday 26 June:

Individual trip to Portugal. Arrival in the afternoon at Dominio Vale do Mondego Welcome by Eelco Schaap and Karin Sligting. Welcome dinner & meet the participants.

Day 2 : Monday 27 June:

Introduction to the workshop.
All day Workshop

Day 3 : Tuesday 28 June:

All day Workshop

Day 4 : Wednesday 29 June:

Naturewalk on the domain with Eelco
Rest of the day Workshop

Day 5 : Thursday 30 June:

Visit to a traditional wool weaving factory/museum in Meios.
Rest of the day Workshop
Possibility to continue during the evening

Day 6 :Friday 1July:

Morning free / optional walk through the Vale do Mondego over caminhas antigas and Roman paths
Workshop
At the end of the day closure of the workshop with a small exposé and drinks.
Portuguese barbecue.

Day 7 : Saturday 2 July:

After breakfast departure

Price

- € 695 p.p. on the basis of a shared studio
- € 795 p.p. by single use of a double studio
- € 450 p.p. for non-participating partners
- € 595 p.p. in a tent with bed
- € 550 p.p. in your own tent

The arrangement includes:

- a welcome drink
- 5 days workshops of 7 hours per day by AnaRira de Albuquerque
- 6 nights in a studio/tent with bed/own tent
- every day an extensive breakfast
- 2-course lunch with wine
- 3-course dinner with wine
- coffee, tea, natural water, we use organi
- We use biodynamic and local ingredients in our kitchen
- Unlimited use of the raw wool of our Bordeleira sheep
- Use of atelier
- Naturewalk with Eelco
- Excursion to the woolfactory in Meios.

For questions and reservations, please mail to:

info@dominiovaledomondego.com Exclusive flight, transport from and to airport, insurances

Reservation is by downpayment of 20% of the total amount. 3 months before the workshop, we request a payment of 40%, 1 month before the start of the workshop, the remainder of 40% has to be paid.

Cancellation costs up to 3 months before the start of the workshop are 20% of the total amount. From 3 months up to 1 month cancelling costs are 60%. From 1 month cancellation costs are 100% of the fee. It is possible to propose an alternative participant.



accommodation

Dominio Vale do Mondego offers accommodation in traditional granite studios. All interiors are different, basic and tasteful. They have good beds, towels, bath robes, art and books. Each studio has 2 beds (either twins or double), own entrance and private bathroom.

In the olivegrove of 1,5 ha we have several large bungalowtents with beds.



- Facilities
- 22 ha domain
 - vegetable garden, orchards
 - biodynamic kitchen, slow food
 - terraces & beach
 - waterbassins
 - panoramaterrace 300 m2
 - diningroom 24 pers
 - summerbar & lounge area
 - dôme 12 mt diameter, 6 mt high
 - maluca art atelier 120 m2
 - pavillion atelier 75m2
 - open air rock theatre 200 pers
 - amphitheatre 60 pers
 - stable



We have a few basic bungalow tents with genuine bed, mattresses, bedding and towels. Campsite is our olivegrove.

The month of June 2016 Domínio Vale do Mondego will host **3 wonderful workshops**: feast for lovers of textiles, felting, eco-printing and eco-dyeing. If you would like to combine any workshop we would like to offer you a **discount of 5%** on the total sum.

4 - 11 June

Joan Morris

Shaped Resist Dyeing (Shibori) with Ecology in Mind

18 - 25 June

Nicola Brown

Eco printing



16 & 17 June 2016

Join prof dr Jan Jansen for 2 days on his botanical research in Naturepark Serra da Estrela and learn everything about the uniqueness of the flora, to be used directly in your workshop with Nicola Brown.

From 12 - 17 June 2016 prof. dr Jan Jansen will be visiting Dominio Vale do Mondego, to continue his research of the botanical plants of the Serra da Estrela Naturepark, together with his scientific friends. Jan Jansen is the expert for over 30 years. Participants of the ecoprinting workshop have the opportunity to join dr Jan Jansen and his team for 2 days, 16 and 17 June, to learn firsthand about the enormous varieties of plants, to be used directly in your ecoprinting work.

Travelling to the Domínio

Domínio Vale do Mondego is situated in the Beira Alta district in the centre of Portugal. We are 15 km from the city of Guarda. Spain is at a distance of 45 km. We may organise a meet & greet at the airport of Porto and Lisbon. Please ask us for details and prices.

Airport:

You can either fly to Porto or to Lisbon.

Porto is a 2- hours drive, Lisbon a 3-hours drive over good and very quiet motorways.

Public Transport

Public transport in Portugal is very efficient, cheap and comfortable.

for the bus, see : www.rede-expressos.pt

for the train, see: www.cp.pt

From Porto the bus to Guarda takes 3 hours, the train 4 hours

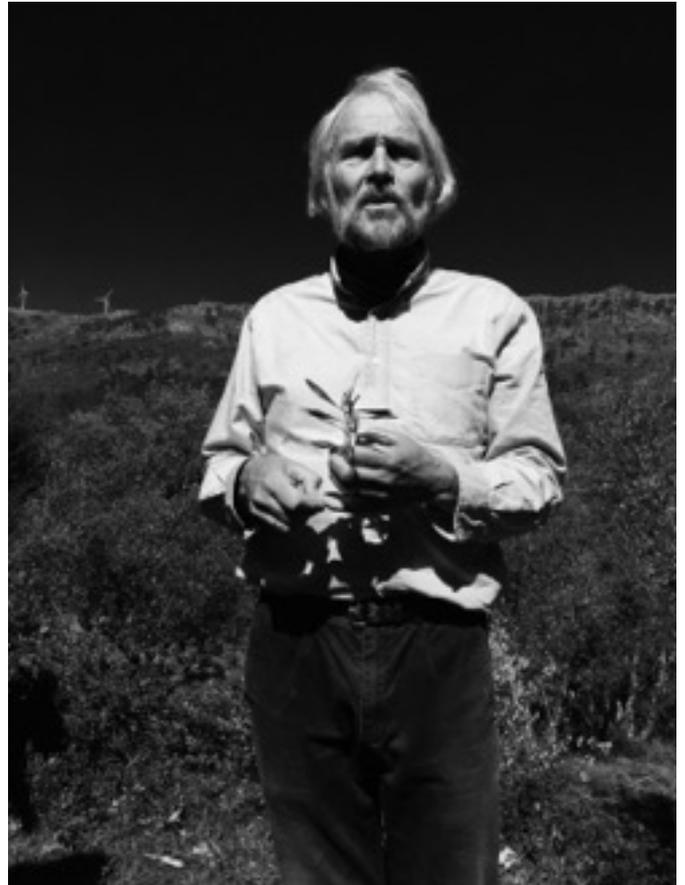
From Lisbon the bus takes 3,5 hours, the train 4,5 hours

In Guarda you find taxis in front of the station. Take the taxi to Faia, mention the Quinta de Holandêses or Dona Catharina. Duration is approx 20 minutes, costs max € 20,-.

If you need help, send us an email! We will send you detailed descriptions of the directions In Porto and Lisbon. And suggestions for accommodation. Both cities are definitely worth a visit.



Eelco Schaap, born in 1953 in Wageningen, The Netherlands, the city of the Agricultural University & Research. During his youth he was surrounded by agricultural scientists and nature lovers. Eelco followed the professional school of biodynamic agriculture Warmonderhof. He has been a professional spokesman of biodynamic agriculture in the Netherlands for 35 years. He founded the Institution Biologica, set up numerous projects with farmers, producers and wholesale companies within a European context. Has been advisor and certifier in Europe as well as the United States and the Caribbean. Eelco is married to Karin Sligting. They have 3 children: Storm (11), Armida (22) and Deirdre (23). Since they moved to Portugal Eelco's main focus is the revival of the traditional farm along biodynamic principles, the production of healthy food and nature preservation .



Karin Sligting, born in 1959 in Amsterdam, studied English and Spanish at the Free University of Amsterdam and has a MBA at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. She has always been involved in the organisation and communication of new initiatives, mainly in the field of art and theatre. She was director of a large medieval castle in the Netherlands and initiated art, nature and educational projects. She managed several professional theatre companies, staging large open air spectacles and was responsible for communication & external affairs. In Portugal Karin started the Angel Art festival on their domain, a week long summer open air festival with open air theatre, dance, comedy, music and art workshops. Furthermore, she has set up an artist-in-residence programme and together with Eelco they offer during the year a programme with art & nature workshops, masterclasses and meetings.



Domínio Vale do Mondego

The ecological domain Dominio Vale do Mondego is located in the valley of the Alto Rio Mondego, in the Serra da Estrela, the largest natural park in Portugal. The domain is over 22 hectares and consists of ancient agricultural terraces, forest, olive groves and nature. The scenery is magnificent and rugged. Owner Eelco Schaap is responsible for the Biodynamic Agriculture, consisting of a flock of 50 native Bordeleira sheep and 1500 olive trees, fruit trees and a vegetable garden. And his wife Karin organises Art Workshops, Summer Festivals and Masterclasses. The domain has an open air theatre, small amphitheatre, Dôme, large art workshop and the unique Malcua Art Atelier for artists-in-residence.

Guests stay at the Domínio, the hamlet on the estate, consisting of a farmhouse and outbuildings of authentic granite and whitewashed walls. There are 6 studio rooms, all individually and quirky decorated, with good beds, furniture, art and books. They have private bathroom, private entrance and small terrace. The Quinta da Maluca is magnificently restored under architecture and boasts a wonderful view over the valley due to the 7 meter high glass front. The main farmhouse has a large lounge with fireplace and large dining table. This is where the extensive breakfast is being served and delicious Slow Food dishes with fresh biodynamic produce from their own garden. The Domínio offers several terraces with seating and sun loungers by the water basin, filled with spring water. Karin and Eelco live with their son Storm (11) on the estate. Eelco, expert in biological-dynamic farming, takes guests on nature walks. The biodynamic agriculture produces top quality extra-virgem olive oil, olives, vegetables, fruits and herbs.



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