

IKAT STYLE WEAVING WORKSHOP

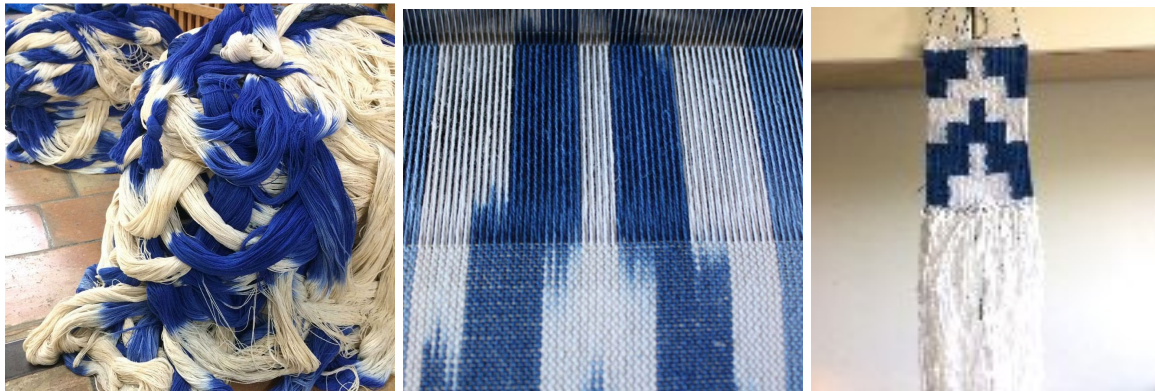
INSPIRED BY MALLORCAN ARTISANS



WHAT IS 'IKAT' ?

Ikat weaving is a special style of weaving, a traditional technique used in regions including Mallorca. IKAT is also known as 'CLOTH OF TONGUES' or 'TONGUES OF FLAME'. inspired by the tongues of flame shapes intrinsic to many of the patterns and designs.

The term "ikat" refers to the dyeing technique used to create the designs on the fabric. It is a resist dyeing process, where bundles of yarn are tightly wrapped together and then dyed as many times as is required to create the desired pattern. This dyeing process is different because the yarns are dyed before being woven into cloth. In most of the other resist-dyeing techniques, like batik for example, it is the final cloth and not the yarn, that's dyed.



Once the yarns have been suitably dyed and dried, the weaver lines them up on the loom to form the pattern. The design takes form as the yarn is woven into cloth. This is an incredibly complicated process, as the weaver has to precisely dye the threads, and place them correctly so it forms the correct pattern when woven. Just to reiterate how hard this is... in order to replicate a pattern, the weaver would have to dye the thread in exactly the same place as before *AND* line it up on a loom in *EXACTLY* the same place *AND* then they'd have to weave it exactly the same way. Today we have chosen to simplify this process but we are still weaving and creating the patterns using different coloured threads.

IKAT weaving in traditional Mallorcan artisan workshops is done using large looms. Today, as we are working on smaller lap looms, we are creating designs inspired by the distinctive patterns and colours of the Mediterranean, the classic azure blue and white of the region that are classic to the Ikat cloths.



Weaving textiles is a traditional treasured craft of Mallorca, as well as many other areas of the region. Each region brings it's own spin on weaving and cloth making. Weaving on looms is also very on trend right now with contemporary tapestry popular in the modern craft world. This workshop combine the two to allow the opportunity to create something that is a fresh twist on the traditional techniques of IKAT. Weaving of cloth has been important in generations of Mallorcan culture and crafts. From its role to clothe agricultural workers to hang on the wall to decorate homes. The product of this workshop can be a decorative item to hang on a wall.



WORKSHOP LEADERS

I am Nikki Shaill, a freelance creative programmer, producer and artist who has specialised in designing and leading participatory workshops for over 15 years. As well as running arts workshops specialising in life drawing through my company Art Macabre (www.artmacabre.co.uk) I also have worked extensively as a freelance workshops facilitator. Today I am assisted by another experienced crafts workshop leader, Chloe aka Merry Bobbins. We both also are involved in running a large craft event called BUST Craftacular supporting different local crafters and designer makers.

I specialise in responding to themes and creating bespoke workshops that allow people of all levels of confidence and creativity to engage and enjoy experiencing using their hands and ideas. I enjoy working with different people and taking them on a journey throughout the workshop, encouraging even the most reluctant participant that they can learn new skills, give it a go and develop their creative confidence by the end when they see a high quality product they have created...and had lots of fun in the process, of course!

I am based in Hackney, with a studio at the Round Chapel, and my work as an artist and facilitator covers different media but includes life drawing, figurative drawing, painting, collage, textiles and embroidery, weaving, prop making, mask making, costume design and linocut print making.

TEMPLE OF LOOM is our series of weaving workshops, using small lap looms and introductory weaving techniques. [@daughtersofweave](https://twitter.com/daughtersofweave) [#templeoffloom](https://twitter.com/templeoffloom)

STEP BY STEP WEAVING BASICS

Today you have learnt to:

- Set up the warp on the loom using embroidery thread and keep the tension
- Weave your weft using stitches including plain stitch and soumak stitch
- Create a design using geometric shapes, different textures and colours of yarn
- Create tassels and fringing
- Finish off and hang your weave

Weaving looms can be found online or in craft and textiles shops, or even hand made using picture frames with nails or even simpler pieces of cardboard, if you would like to carry on weaving at home? There are some brilliant online resources and tutorials to remind you of the basics and develop your skills.

