

RAY REYNOLDS - TEXTILE ARTIST

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Nuno Felting



Equipment List

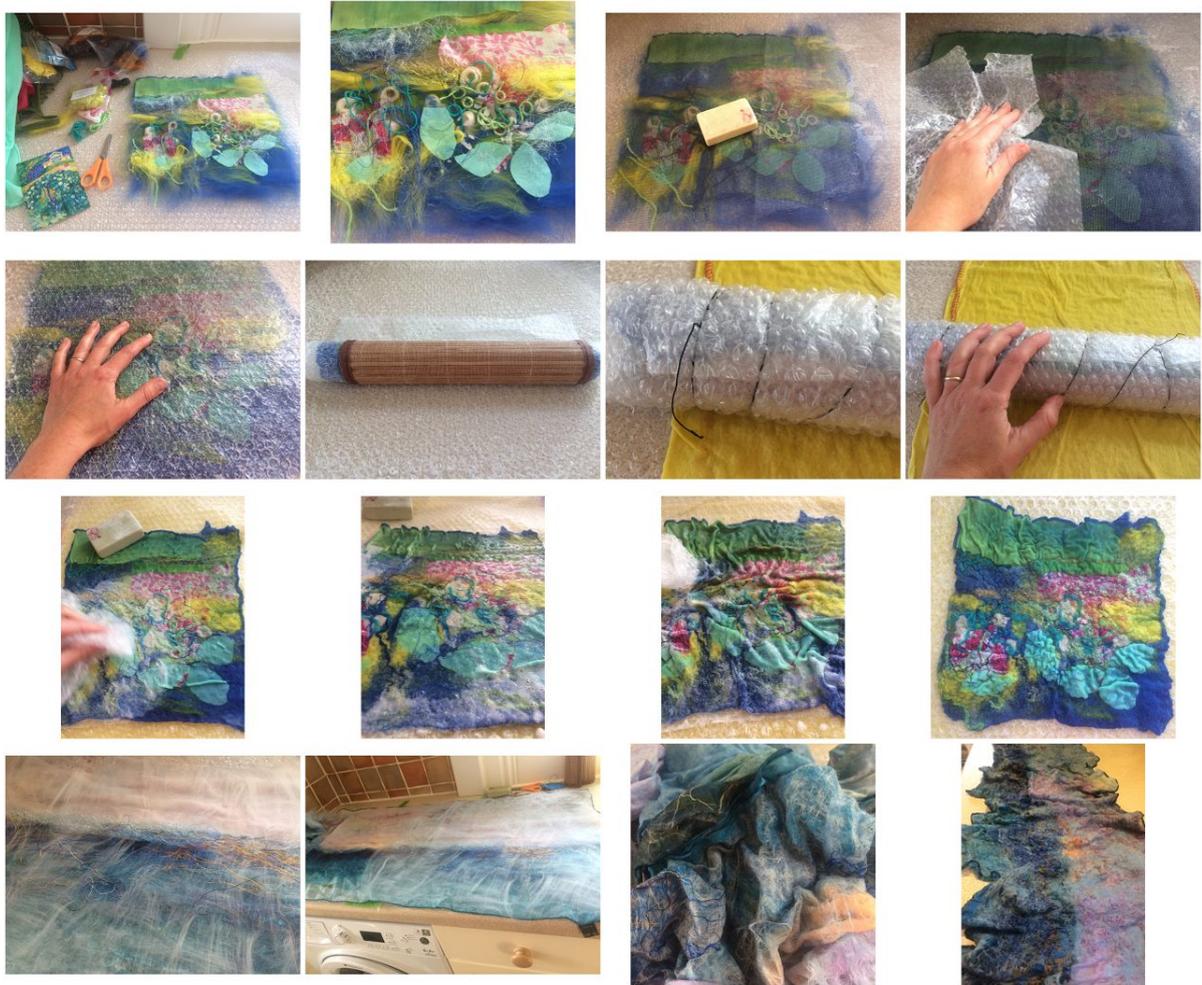
- Access to hot water
- Spray bottle
- Bamboo mat
- Bubblewrap x3 pieces roughly the same size as the bamboo mat (can be larger)
- Oliva soap or other gentle soap
- Netting
- Waterproof apron is often handy
- Fibres
- Silk, chiffon, lace, any fabric which is natural, has a sort of matt feel and as a rule of thumb one that you can blow through and feel your air on your hand - check charity shops as often you'll find something suitable and interesting to use here

Nuno Felting

Nuno is the addition of fabric into the fibres of felt making. The fibres of the fleece work their way through the fabric and then as it shrinks pulls the fabric in, making ripples and interesting textures. You can either add minimal fibre to a piece of fabric, leaving holes and small patches of fabric or you can start with a layer or two of fibre and add fabric on top like a collage (or you can experiment with layers and combine both methods).

Instructions

1. Lay your fabric out onto the bubblewrap with bubbles up for more friction when felting.
2. Lay fibres on to the surface of the fabric but very finely. Lay the fibres in different directions so that when the fibres shrink they pull in to make interesting ripples. You can cover the majority of the fabric with fibre but make sure it is very fine so you can still see the fabric underneath. You can also be very minimal or have a pattern on the fabric, leaving large areas of fabric without any fibre on it.
3. When you have finished designing your nuno felt, water down with COLD water. You don't want to use hot water yet as this will felt the fibres before they have had a chance to work their way through the fabric.
4. Place the netting over the work and wet down a bit more spreading the water out with your hands.
5. Pass the soap over the surface of the netting creating a small amount of bubbles.
6. Use your hands to begin felting until the netting just begins to stick to the fibres.
7. Pull the netting away very gently and check everything is still where you want it to be!
8. Add the 2nd layer of bubblewrap - bubbles down.
9. Use the bamboo mat for stability when rolling and roll the work up.
10. Add an extra layer bubble wrap around the roll and secure with some elastic.
11. Put on a song and roll away until the end, then unroll, turn 90 degrees and wrap up again - put another song on and roll again (or count to about 300 rolls each way!)
12. Unroll and check that the fibres have worked their way through the fabric. You should be able to see them very slightly - if you hold the fabric up to the light and look horizontally across the surface it should look slightly fuzzy.
13. Add some warm water and using your hands move the fabric across the bubble wrap. This part can take some time depending on fabrics used, temperature of the water and scrubbing technique. Be patient and it will start to ripple I promise!
14. As the fibres begin to felt, add more hot water and soap, be more vigorous with the movements - squeeze water out, add new hot water, scrunch up, throw onto the bubble wrap...have fun and don't be precious about it.
15. Once your fabric begins to ripple you are almost there - keep going until you are happy with the ripples.
16. Rinse out and leave to dry.



Supplies

<http://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk>

<http://www.craftynotions.com>

<http://www.georgeweil.com>