

Experimental Sewing and Soft-Sculpture

Max Adrian

June 19-24, 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Hello! I am so excited to share a week at Arrowmont with you this summer. Our workshop will entail lots of experimentation with sewing and soft-sculpture techniques. My primary goal with our time is to introduce several processes and let you explore the ones that feel the most exciting. You will be free to make a bunch of samples across all the techniques introduced or focus on one/ some of them to produce a small project. Rather than leave Arrowmont with a finished "product" I hope you will leave with new things to continue exploring when you return home. If there's a particular sewing process you are currently working through or curious about, please reach out to me in advance! I will try to incorporate it into a demo or we can touch on it one-on-one. The workshop will begin with a variety of hand and machine sewing processes such as piecework, applique, and smocking. I will also introduce strategies for applying sewing techniques to soft sculptures. We will focus primarily on inflatables, and I will teach you how to incorporate a fan into a small inflatable structure. Other sculptural strategies will include stuffed forms and internal armatures. Basic pattern drafting will also be introduced via an exercise where we will disassemble a stuffed animal.

Another major goal for this workshop is to prioritize alternative, found, and scrap materials. It's no secret that the textile industry wreaks havoc on the planet in a variety of ways. While the greatest responsibility for these concerns lies with industry leaders over individual consumers, I believe strongly that using pre-existing materials is overall better for the planet and our wallets, and it presents more opportunities for creative problem solving. You will be provided a limited amount of 100% cotton muslin for some of our demos, but the bulk of our projects should be made with materials we find. Before our workshop, take some time to search your studios for scrap fabric or scavenge through some local thrift stores. Or better yet, ask your friends or family if they have spare fabric/ materials/ clothing to share. At the same time, try to prioritize uniqueness (color, texture, pattern) over quantity. Think upholstery swatches over old bedsheets. I will bring scraps of materials like faux-fur, pleather, and athletic mesh to give you an idea of some alternative materials to look out for. Together, we will pool our findings into a communal material "library" (though you don't HAVE to share that special iridescent vinyl or cow print denim if you don't want to). If you are flying, don't stress. Bring what you can. There will be plenty of materials to work with.

Throughout our week at Arrowmont, I hope we all (myself included) will play with some new techniques while building a community together. I'm eager to have conversations about other artists working in textiles/ soft sculpture as well as topics like queer craft, sloppy craft, and sustainable arts practices. I'm curious to learn from all of your practices/ interests in sewing, and I'm excited to share some resources with you as well. See you in June!

MATERIALS LIST

- Misc. fabrics and sewing materials for personal use and to share (found materials and/ or scraps preferred! think outside the box!)
- Pens, pencils, sharpies, marking chalk, and/ or other marking tools
- Sewing pins - Arrowmont has some to share if you can't travel with them.
- Seam ripper – Arrowmont has some to share if you can't travel with it.
- A stuffed animal that can be disassembled.
- Thread (at least two spools, any color. The more the merrier. Gutermann 500 m or similar brand)
- Hand sewing needles. A curved sewing needle will really come in handy!
- Fabric scissors- Arrowmont has some to share if you can't travel with them.
- Quilting ruler - Arrowmont has limited supply to share if you can't travel with them.
- Flash drive (to protect and save data to and from Library computers)
- Padlock for your studio locker, if desired (For rent in the Supply Store for the week)

OPTIONAL

- Misc. sewing notions (buttons, trim, fringe, tassels, sequins, etc.)
- Low voltage gemmy inflatable 1.0a fan. (https://www.yardinflatables.com/DC-Fans_c_69.html) There will be some for demo purposes that we will share during the workshop. If you do choose to purchase one for yourself, feel free to have it shipped to Arrowmont.
- OPTIONAL: Nylon ripstop for inflatables. I recommend ripstop with PU coating, something like this: https://www.seattlefabrics.com/60-19-Ounce-IMPORTED-Polyurethane-Coated-Ripstop-875-linear-yard_p_1122.html however any ripstop will do. There will be enough material for us all to experiment with, but if you know you would like to focus on a larger inflatable project, bring extra material.

The Supply Store has a small selection of materials for all mediums. If you intend on purchasing items from the store once you arrive on campus, please reach out to our supply store to ensure we have those materials in stock. Call 865-436-5860 Ext. 25 or email store@arrowmont.org

MATERIALS FEES: \$60.00-\$80.00

Materials fees will be charged for materials used in the studio and/or provided by instructors for use in the studio by the entire class. In order to keep these fees as low as possible, fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class. Materials fees are paid on the last day of class.

Please be advised that above course description and materials list is written and approved by the instructor

If you have any additional questions about this class, below is the contact info for your instructor:

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