**FELTING AND DYEING**

**Instructor**
Darci Lenker
[Meet your instructor](https://oklahomacontemporary.org/learn/studio-school/current-studio-school-instructors/darci-lenker)

**Start Date | Rain Date**
Eight-week class begins Saturday, April 13th, 10:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

No class on May 25th for Memorial Day Weekend.

In case of instructor illness or weather, the rain date is June 15th.

**Location**

Studios Building | Josie Eresch Fibers Studio | 2 NW 11th St., OKC, OK 73103.

 **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1:** Explanation of supplies, short introductory lessons of wet felting and needle felting.

**Week 2**: Dyeing wool roving. \*\*You will need your N95 mask for this class. \*\*

**Week 3:** Dyeing wool roving. \*\*You will need your N95 mask for this class. \*\*

**Week 4**: Wet felting: flat sheets, balls, hollow balls. Begin work on vessels and practice using resists.

**Week 5:** Needle felting: three-dimensional shapes, attaching pieces together, building forms.

**Week 6**: Nuno felting.

**Week 7**: Needle felting onto fabric.

**Week 8**: Finish any projects and informal class critique.

 **REQUIRED materials**

* Wool roving in a variety of colors. We will be dyeing some wool roving from Mollie Spencer Farms in class weeks 2 and 3, but it is good to have your own stash in addition to this so you can get started right away! <https://www.michaels.com/product/dimensions-needle-felting-wool-rovings-rainbow-10510091>

[www.joann.com/dimensions-pastel-wool-value-pack-8ct/18777847.html](http://www.joann.com/dimensions-pastel-wool-value-pack-8ct/18777847.html)

We are going to be using this for several projects that are easily adaptable to what you choose for a subject matter, so choose a variety pack with several assorted colors, and something with a neutral color palette (browns, black, gray, and white). A little bit goes a long way with needle felting, so you should not need a lot of one single color to start unless you know you are going to want something specific. There are many types of wool, and they all have their pros and cons depending on what is being done with them, but all will work. You may want to try a little of several different varieties and decide which you prefer. Do not stress about which kind you get! Wool is adaptable and user-friendly. Some just take a little more patience.

(Many of the supplies are available at Amazon, Hobby Lobby, JoAnn, and other independent sellers through Etsy, Ebay, or their own websites. I am adding links so you can compare and know what you are looking for if you want to shop around or need something shipped quickly.)

* Needle Felting Wool 80 g, 8 Colors 10g/Color (Amazon) <https://a.co/d/doiSy1y>
* 24 Color (Dark) Needle Felting Wool (Amazon) <https://a.co/d/do1omSP>
* Core wool or natural wool roving seems a little more expensive, but it comes in a larger amount and is cheaper to use inside your dyed wool. You can also dye this in class.
* Core wool [www.woolbuddy.com/collections/supplies/products/core-wool](http://www.woolbuddy.com/collections/supplies/products/core-wool)
* Natural Wool Roving (Amazon) <https://a.co/d/1loPUUS>
* Felting needles. You will need multiple sizes of felting needles. Any variety of gauge number (42, 40, 38, 36, 32) or small, medium, large is fine, you just want to have several sizes because they are useful in different ways. The larger the number, the smaller the needle. These will eventually bend or break, so make sure you have several to work with. You do not need a felting tool to hold them, but I included my favorite felting pen if you want to try it. The felting pens hold three small needles, and the needles can be replaced if they break.
* Any of the beginner felting kits will work.
 [www.feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Felting-Needles-38-STAR\_p\_18.html](http://www.feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Felting-Needles-38-STAR_p_18.html)

 [www.joann.com/triangle-felting-needles/9827312.html](http://www.joann.com/triangle-felting-needles/9827312.html)

* Beginner Needle Felting Kit (Amazon) <https://a.co/d/g04wDbH>
* Phinus Needle Felting, Felting Needle Tool with 3 Needles, Pen Style Needle
* Felting Tool (Amazon) <https://a.co/d/2dGJZ5y>
* Felting pads. You will need a dense foam pad (first link) for needle felting on fabric in week 7. You can buy two of these, or one and a thick wool pad for your other uses. I use a wool pad because the foam falls apart after a lot of use will need to be replaced. The foam works better for two-dimensional needle felting and is easier on your hands if you have dexterity issues.

<https://www.hobbylobby.com/Yarn-Needle-Art/Needle-Arts-Kits/Needle-Felting/Felting-Work-Station/p/80765249?srsltid=AfmBOopT8EghrhmZAL-Lto9oaXpQ1M4HnqdSTIhzPrb0XmiUBLY6ljDjIjA> (Available in other places, but this is by far the cheapest).

[www.woolbuddy.com/collections/felting-kit/products/large-felting-mat](http://www.woolbuddy.com/collections/felting-kit/products/large-felting-mat) (Also, on Amazon).

* N95 mask. You need this by week 2 for dyeing wool.
* Old towel.
* Synthetic fabric. Get something cheap or use something you already have. This is just to help you move your wool around before you felt it. I use some old mesh curtains.
* Sharp scissors.
* Silk gauze or chiffon fabric. We will use this for nuno felting in week 7. You can also use cotton cheesecloth or some other similar natural gauzy material with a lightweight, open weave. I will have examples in week 1 so you can see them. You do not need very much; a scarf or handkerchief is fine if you do not want to buy a yard of fabric. (If it has specifications, you want something below 8mm.)

[https://www.dharmatrading.com/fabric/silk/silk-gauze-](https://www.dharmatrading.com/fabric/silk/silk-gauze-3mm.html?lnav=default.html)3mm.html?lnav=default.html

<https://feltingsupplies.livingfelt.com/Gauze-or-Chiffon_c_135.html>

* Linen fabric. Or something similar, like a midweight cotton. A quarter of a yard is plenty. Any color is fine. We will use this week 7 for needle felting onto fabric.
* Useful things: Bubble wrap and other plastic packaging materials (not paper or foam peanuts), textured shelf liner, bamboo mats (sushi mats or placemats), small ball or balloon, pool noodle, PVC pipe, safety pins, old wool sweater. These are not required but are useful if you have them. The pool noodle and PVC pipe are used as a rolling pin, so they do not need to be longer than 2 feet for our class.

**Not required but for fun:** If you want to experiment with any other types of wool that you see, like locks, batts, nepps, or other animal fur, feel free to bring it in to try! Please make sure your animal fur is clean.

**\*For the first class, please have some wool roving, felting needles, and felting pad.**