



Paper + Thread

3-8 June '26

Wheatbelt Arts Hub is pleased to launch a new annual workshop program for fibre and related arts, in the historic Wheatbelt town of York, Western Australia.

Paper + Thread offers a comprehensive schedule led by Australia's leading practitioners, suitable for both experienced artists and beginners. The series includes 2- and 4-day workshops, allowing participants to learn a range of techniques, mediums and processes to enhance their own creative practice.

Workshops run from 9:00 to 16:00 daily and include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

2 day workshops: 3-4 June 2026 \$490pp (excluding accommodation)

4 day workshops: 5-8 June 2026 \$720pp (excluding accommodation)

Any 2 & 4 day workshops: \$1100pp (excluding accommodation)

Early bird opens March 22. Early bird discount:

2 day workshops: 3-4 June 2026 \$400pp (excluding accommodation).

4 day workshops: 5-8 June 2026 \$630pp (excluding accommodation).

Any 2 & 4 day workshops: \$920pp (excluding accommodation).

Book & Pay Early Bird by 20 April. Book here

Participants may arrange accommodation with their registration (spaces limited so be quick) or book separately through local providers (details on our website). A long-table dinner on Thursday 4 June offers a relaxed opportunity to connect with other participants and tutors. Cost \$65pp (byo alcohol)

York's self-catering options abound, with supplies available at local outlets such as The Good Life and IGA. There are a range of cafés, hotels in York, and in neighbouring towns (Spencers Brook, Northam, Toodyay and Beverley).

York's heritage is central to the experience—the Town Hall and numerous buildings designed by renowned architect George Temple-Poole buildings (the Post Office, Courthouse, old hospital, school and railway station) offering a window to some of York's history. Attendees can also enjoy views from Wongborel (Mt Brown) or explore the Avon River, the Bushland Garden, and the River Conservation Society's Environmental Discovery Centre.

Cancellation policy

Before 20 April - 80% refund

Before 1 May - 50% refund

After 2 May - 0% refund

WAEi reserves the right to cancel workshop if minimum enrolment is not reached by 17th May. If a workshop is cancelled, participants will be offered places in other workshops or a full refund if preferred.

Paper + Thread is a project of Wheatbelt Arts & Events, a not-for-profit association that runs *The York Festival*, *Ballardong First* and other community arts initiatives.



Earth pigments and paints

This two-day workshop introduces participants to the rich material possibilities of earth pigments and the processes used to transform raw mineral colour into usable paints.

Working with both personal samples and a curated collection of earth pigments, participants will explore how colour, texture and particle behaviour influence the character of natural pigments. Through a series of practical studio processes, the workshop guides participants through the early stages of pigment preparation, including selecting raw materials, grinding, levigation and testing for hue, value and texture.

Participants will investigate traditional and contemporary approaches to pigment processing, including the transformation of iron oxides through heat, the preparation of calcium carbonate, and the role of natural gums and binders in paint making.

The workshop then moves into the creation of handmade paints. Participants will learn mulling techniques to produce watercolour and tempera paints using earth pigments prepared during the workshop. Additional processes include preparing glair and watercolour mediums, exploring the role of kaolin and calcium carbonate as paint modifiers, and understanding the principles of lightfastness and pigment stability.

Participants will mix and test a range of colours, building practical knowledge of how natural pigments can be integrated into drawing, painting and mixed-media practices. Participants will leave with a set of handmade paints and a deeper understanding of the material language of earth pigments.

Materials fee: \$10 paid direct to tutor.

Materials and Tools List:

- Old clothes or an apron
- Notebook and pen
- Watercolour paper - at least 6 A4 sheets (bring your own or Helen has packs available for \$5)
- Bring an earth sample to work with - something that has meaning to you. It can be a container of dirt from your garden, a soft rock or earth collected while travelling.





Helen Coleman

Helen Coleman is a contemporary colourwoman, with an art practice devoted to process and experimentation. In 2018 she completed a two-year residency at Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah, where she combined her background in botany and chemistry with a passion for art, to explore the eco-dye potential of Western Australia's endemic plants. This residency culminated in her first solo exhibition, *Windfall : Chemistry of the Dye Pot*.

Now based in her Dye Pot Studio, Helen continues to research the colours of the earth and plants around her. She facilitates natural pigments workshops across Australia and collaborates with artists, combining scientific and creative processes to explore new ways of working with local pigments.

In 2022 Helen commenced PhD research at Curtin University, to take a deep dive into the chemistry and dye potential of the iconic *Corymbia calophylla* kino (marri gum).

Website: <https://www.helencolemanart.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Helencolemanart>

