



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.



Embroidered Portrait

This two-day workshop introduces an expressive approach to portraiture through freehand embroidery and appliqué.

Working from a photograph of a head-and-shoulders portrait, participants will begin by translating the image into a series of fabric shapes and stitched lines. Using tracing and simple pattern-making techniques, different areas of the portrait are interpreted through appliqué before stitching begins.

The workshop approaches embroidery as a form of drawing. Participants are encouraged to observe closely and respond to the character of the face using a single thread colour as their line – much like a life drawing exercise translated into stitch.

Through guided experimentation, participants will explore how line, direction and stitch density can capture expression and form. The limitations of simple straight stitches become part of the aesthetic language of the work, encouraging a personal and intuitive approach.

As the portrait develops, participants will explore ways of introducing colour and subtle tonal shifts to build depth and shading, bringing their stitched portraits to life.

The workshop supports both beginners and experienced stitchers, interested in developing a more expressive and observational approach to embroidery.

Materials fee: \$10pp paid direct to tutor

Materials List

- Embroidery hoop - approximately 20cms
- A colour photograph of your subject (this can be digital)
- A print out of the photograph, either black and white or colour where the face is between 8-10 cms.
- Base fabric - about 25cms square to fit the hoop. The background can be plain or patterned. Choose a fabric that suits the personality of your subject or the photo that you are working from. It should be a firm weave to hold the appliqué and embroidery. If you want to use a lighter fabric like a light silk, it is a good idea to mount it on another piece of more sturdy fabric such as a cotton.
- Other small pieces of patterned fabric to use for the appliqué.
- Vlisofix/Bondaweb, one A4 piece should be plenty.
- Embroidery needles
- Stranded embroidery thread, black or dark grey and white
- Stranded embroidery threads in a variety of flesh colours, eye colours, hair colours and lip colours. Include olive greens and violets and lilacs as these are good to use with the shadows.
- Other weights of thread for experimenting and exploring other effects
- Dressmaker pins
- Small thread clippers
- Fabric scissors
- Paper scissors
- Tracing paper, one A4 piece should be plenty
- Pencil and notebook
- Water soluble fabric marker
- Optional - a clamp from the hardware shop to clamp your embroidery hoop to the table



Susie Vickery

Susie's career centres on embroidery and textiles, both practical and academic. Her core skills were developed over twenty years as a costumier for theatre and film. In this time, she has built expertise in two further areas: development work and fine art embroidery.

She has extensive experience of rural and refugee development projects for women, particularly in the area of handicrafts and costume in Nepal, Tibet, Myanmar, Turkey and India. For more than ten years has been designing and developing toys, dolls and other handicrafts for a Tibetan income generation project in China. Most recently she worked with York's Noongar community on the art installation 'Mooley the Cow & Other Ballardong Yarns'.

She is a Fellow of the Society of Designer Craftsmen, UK

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