

Elmley Marshes, Francesca Baur



Flax, Fibres and Plant Dyes

Kent Cloth textile works by Francesca Baur

4 October 2019 > 4 January 2020

Free admission



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Francesca Baur has developed a series of seasonal wall hangings exploring the landscape of Kent for the Kent Cloth Project. As we become increasingly disconnected from the making process through the speed of modern textile production, this project advocates a slower approach to creating natural local textiles with a story that embraces local heritage and landscape. From employing traditional skills and growing the flax for linen, to making natural plant dyes.

The project is a botanical journey from the flax fields of Belgium and Normandy to the White Cliffs of Dover, beginning at the Pines Calyx Garden. This trip around the 'Garden of England', references the patterns and forms found in some of the county's unique locations; meandering hop vines and abundant hedgerows, the bountiful marshes along the Swale estuary at Elmley Nature Reserve, the historic floral gardens of Doddington Place and the luscious fruit trees of the Brogdale Collection.

Participants took part in seasonal walks with Francesca and Fergus Drennan, learning to create materials from the land, paper from fungi and pigments from plant extracts to be used in natural dye and screen-printing workshops. The fascinating story of people, places and processes that conspire to create linen and plant dyes has been captured by filmmaker Kimi Gill. Papers and prints created by some of the Kent Cloth workshop participants will also be on display.

Francesca Baur has been a textile designer and tutor for 25 years. She established Fable & Base in 2015, a textile studio based in Whitstable, producing sustainable, eco-friendly bespoke fabric by the metre.

FREE exhibition workshops

Both workshops are now fully subscribed – contact the Arts Team to join the reserve list.

Suitable for adults and accompanied young people aged 11+. Spaces are limited – one workshop per person.

• Sat, 26 Oct, 10.30am-3.30pm

Autumn Plant Dye

• Sat, 16 Nov, 10.30am-3.30pm

Autumn Botanical Dye Screen-Printing

Invitation

Meet Francesca at the opening reception on Thu, 3 Oct, 6.30-8.30pm, free, all welcome.



Photograph by Kimi Gill

**FABLE
&BASE**



Rochester Art Gallery and Craft Case,
Medway Visitor Information Centre, Ground floor,
95 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LX

Opening hours*
Mon to Sat 10am–5pm
Sun Closed

For information about exhibitions and events visit: enjoymedway.co.uk

  Rochester Art Gallery & Craft Case

Book a place on a workshop or join our mailing list for arts news and events by contacting Medway Council's Arts Development Team on **01634 338319** or arts@medway.gov.uk

*Opening times may vary during bank holidays, please check in advance.

