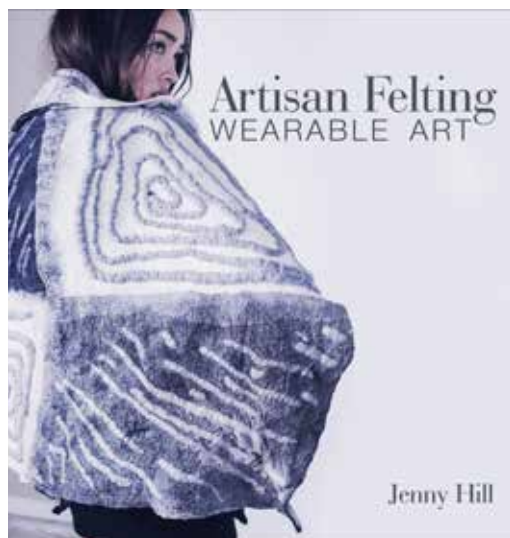


ARTISAN FELTING

WEARABLE ART BY JENNY HILL

REVIEW BY JANINE REES



I HAVE BEEN A FELTMAKER FOR VERY MANY YEARS AND DURING THAT TIME I HAVE COLLECTED A GREAT NUMBER OF FELT-RELATED BOOKS. SO, WHEN I SAW JENNY HILL'S BOOK, "ARTISAN FELTING: WEARABLE ART", I WAS A BIT HESITANT. DID I NEED YET ANOTHER FELT BOOK? THANKFULLY, I DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND ORDER IT - I AM SO PLEASED I DID.

I have been a feltmaker for very many years and during that time I have collected a great number of felt-related books. So, when I saw Jenny Hill's book, "Artisan Felting: Wearable Art", I was a bit hesitant. Did I need yet another felt book? Thankfully, I decided to go ahead and order it - I am so pleased I did.

Hill, an American/Canadian citizen now living in Germany, has been felting since 2012. She is the founder and creative director of J Hill Felt. Further background details are in the book, on her website and on social media.

What makes a good book for me is one that relates to all levels of skill and has clear, concise instructions, good illustrations and ideas to take forward. Well, this book has all that - and much more.

It starts with the basics on equipment, fibre and wool types, layout direction, shrinkage rates and garment designing. How much wool is needed for a project and how to sample for this is all there, in clear language. It also has easy dyeing instructions for three of the garments.

The projects - and there are seven, with full

detailed instructions - start with a simple marbled scarf with fringe, a textured poncho, and a felt fur waistcoat, all in relatively simple shapes. The book moves on to a light nuno felt tunic, embroidered nuno bolero, tailored jacket and a gorgeous textured dress, thus developing from the basics to advanced pieces as you progress. The designs all have materials lists and sizes (before and after shrinkage) with clearly marked drawings including measurements, plus the shrinkage factor (horizontal and vertical). It's rather like a good recipe - follow the instructions and you will obtain a good result. I am impressed by the detail and step by step illustrations throughout.

Many of the projects were created and photos taken at the premises of Wollknoll, a wool supplier and workshop location near Hill's home in Germany. Hill also teaches there and at other venues.

Finally, Hill talks about her process of designing a collection, this one being inspired by Paris. Few people share the depth of thinking and planning that Hill has done. Her sketches, photoshoot and colour options, choice of fabrics and sample pieces are all

inspiring. She is now working on her next collection: "LOVE NOTE: Tokyo".

I hesitate to say that this is the only felting book you need (I have many felting 'bibles' I would not be without!) but it is certainly going to take a worthy place on my bookshelf.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Janine Rees is coordinator of the editorial team for Felt Matters and has been an IFA member since 2004.

TITLE: Artisan Felting: Wearable Art

AUTHOR: Jenny Hill

PUBLISHER: Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. 2019

ISBN 076435829, 9780764358524

\$27.99

Available from www.schifferbooks.com and Amazon.com

PHOTO CREDITS: J HILL and PUBLISHERS IMAGES

Left to right: "Artisan Felting" Cover. J Hill Gold Dress. J Hill Kneading Felt. Tunic above shot.