

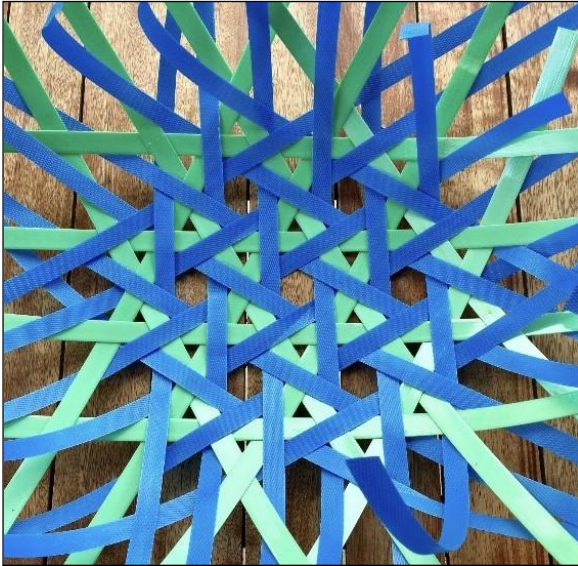


OPEN HEXAGONAL PLAITING with Stella Harding

Saturday, 25 September 2021

10:00 – 16:30

St Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Old Marston OX3 0PR



In this workshop you will learn the basic techniques of open hexagonal plaiting - also known as triaxial plaiting or hex-weave. This will include: how to turn 'corners' to create three-dimensional forms, how to create borders or alternative finishes and how to augment your forms with further layers of interweaving. There will be opportunities to combine different materials and to experiment with colour, texture and surface decoration.

Open hexagonal weave produces a characteristic pattern of hexagons, six-pointed stars and equilateral triangles. It is classed as a plaiting technique because all the weaving elements are equally active. It is common in the Far East and South East Asia where it is well suited to use with indigenous materials such as bamboo, rattan and a variety of palm leaves. A very strong and relatively fast technique, it is often used to construct lightweight, sturdy baskets for gathering produce and transporting small livestock. However, it can be used to make a multitude of functional items such as hats and lampshades as well as decorative, sculptural forms.

Contemporary makers have keenly explored the application of recycled materials, such as plastic, paper, stiff textiles and metal, to open hexagonal weave. In fact, any material that is flat, flexible and capable of being split into long strips can be used.

Stella is a London-based visual artist who uses basketry techniques to weave abstract structures and sculptural forms. She enjoys combining organic materials, which she grows or harvests herself, with recycled or repurposed manufactured materials such as strapping tape and vintage steel tape measures. Stella has exhibited widely in the UK and Europe. Most recently, two of her large hex-weave wall pieces were included in the exhibition of British contemporary basketry, *Basketry: Function and Ornament*, at Ruthin Craft Centre in Wales. She teaches Creative Basketry at Morley College, London and is the co-author of 'Practical Basketry Techniques' published in 2012 by Bloomsbury Press. You can learn more about Stella and her work here: <http://www.stellaharding.co.uk/>



**** This workshop is suitable for beginners and those with some experience ****

Workshop fee: £57 per student