

## Stitched Portraits (Freestyle Stitching) with Harriet Riddell

### Need to know information before the course!

Thank you for booking on this course, we are sure that you will have a lot of fun.

Coming prepared for the course will free up more of your time to be truly creative.

You will need to bring:

- A working sewing machine that you are familiar with and know how to operate\*
  - It must have a 'free-motion embroidery foot' and have feed dogs that can be dropped ('dropping the feed dogs' lowers the teeth which usually push the fabric back, normally with a switch. This lets the fabric be free and pushed in any direction)
  - If you an extension table for it too then bring that as well
- A pair of sharp embroidery scissors.
- Any different thread colours you may want to use
- Any of your own fabrics that may want to incorporate into your creations – they may have sentimental values or be special to you!
- A few choices of photos, showing people/scenes /subjects that you would like to capture in stitch

*\*If you are coming and don't have your own sewing machine or you don't think your machine has a free motion embroidery option, please get in touch ASAP and we can try to find you a machine for the weekend.*

#### How to prepare for the course?

Drawing with a sewing machine is using the same part of your hand as drawing with a pen. With this in mind, Harriet recommends that if you can attend life drawing classes, or simply find a bit of time to do some sketching.

Picking up a pen or pencil and trying to draw what you see. This will help you on the sewing machine!

Before the workshop, get your sewing machine out, and have a go at free motion embroidery. Perhaps use a heavy canvas or denim and practise by writing your name.

Simply hold the fabric flat with your hands and guide the fabric around the needle.

Don't worry if you don't get time or it isn't working. We will have lots of time to practise during the workshop.

Choosing reference material:

- Find subjects matters that inspire or mean something to you!
- These could include people, landscapes, architecture, animals or plants.
- **The more options you bring the better!**
- If stitching people, you could choose a friend, family member or famous person.
- Try to get images that show head and shoulders, also think about what they are wearing as well as their accessories and colours.
- You could bring a picture of your home or a building you like. You will find these easier if you are a confident drawer.

You can even bring in real 3D objects you'd like to draw or maybe a still life. No live animals in the studio please though!

**I think that's almost it....**

We are sure that everyone who comes on the course will have a lot of fun and meet some lovely, like-minded people.

We pride ourselves in having a wonderfully creative environment and look forward to welcoming you to the studio soon!

Please do get in touch if you do have any further queries.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Best wishes,

**James**

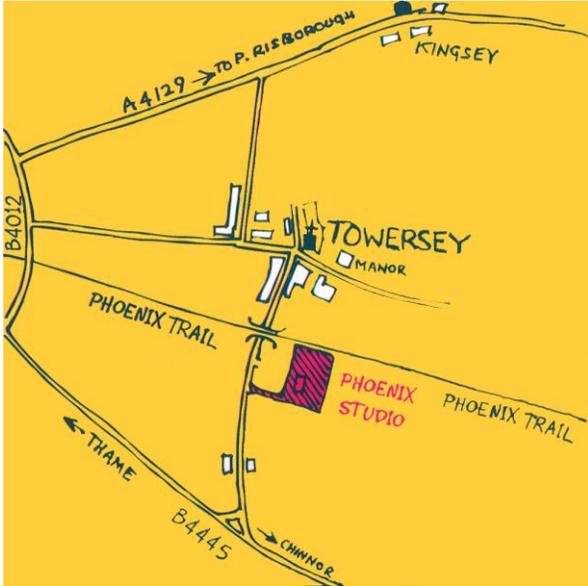
07765980508 / [james@phoenixstudio.co.uk](mailto:james@phoenixstudio.co.uk)

## General Course Information

### Getting Here

Directions to the studio are on the website. The postcode to the studio is **OX9 3QZ** and a map is below. NB sometimes old SatNavs take students to an industrial estate in Thame!

If you are coming from the village hall in the centre of Towersey, go past the pub, under the bridge and we are the next left after Lashlake Nursery.



### Timings

Each day starts at 10.00. **Please arrive in good time in order not to miss the introduction.** We work through to 16.00 and generally with a half hour lunch break and a tea/coffee break in the morning and afternoon.

### What To Bring?

- Items/reference recommended for your specific course
- Your own packed lunch. We have microwaves and a toaster in case you need them.
- An apron or clothes you don't mind getting dusty

### Refreshments

We provide you with all the tea, coffee & biscuits needed to fuel your creativity (*maybe even cake if you are lucky!*)

### What we provide

- Use of necessary equipment, tools and materials.
- Guidance and tuition throughout the day.
- WiFi should you need it. You will need to bring a laptop or other media device.
- Various reference materials and a small library of books though this doesn't mean you shouldn't do your homework!