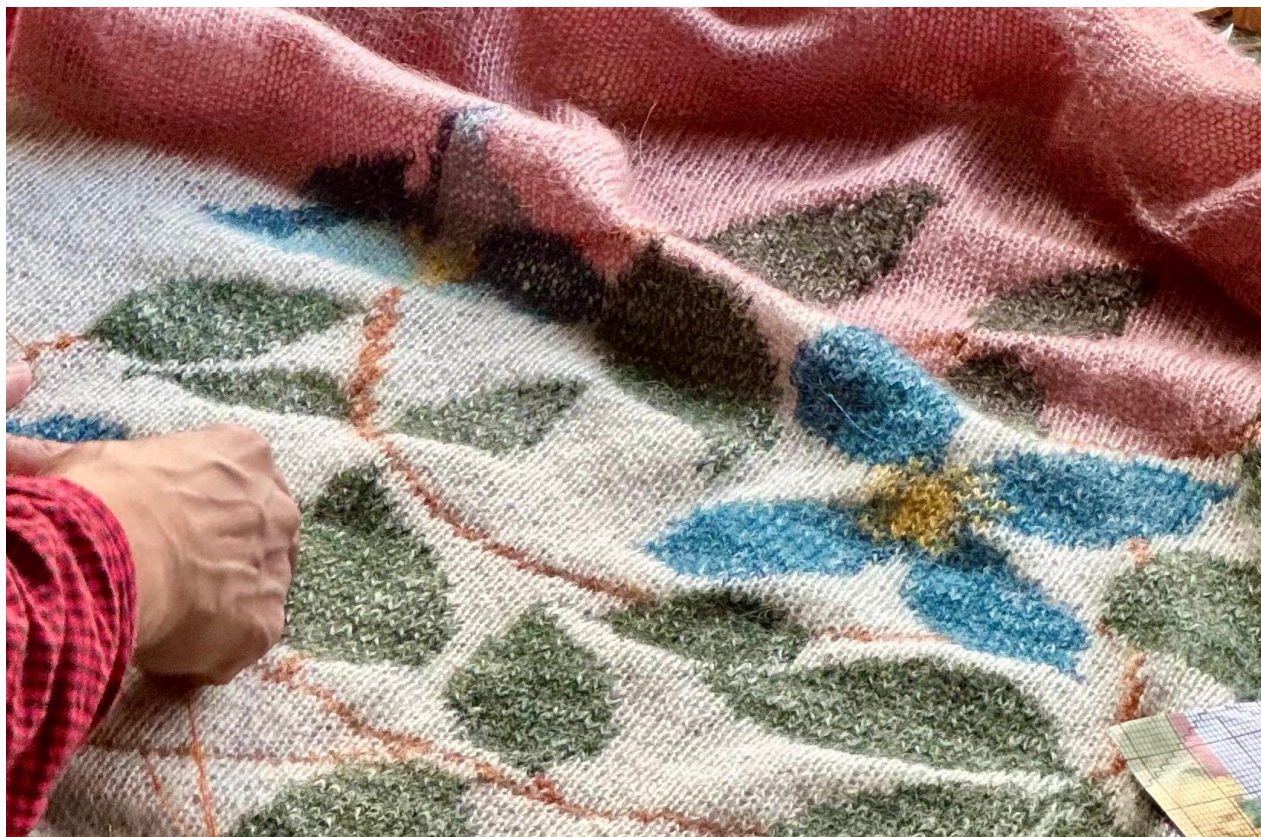


V&A Academy

# **BOTANICAL EMBROIDERY FOR KNITTERS**



# Introduction



## Botanical Embroidery for Knitters with Dee Hardwicke

Following her sell-out workshop this spring, join artist and knitting designer Dee Hardwicke for a unique two-day Botanical Art & Embroidery Workshop for knitters inspired by the rich, golden-hued palettes of autumn. Dee will be sharing her special techniques for drawing and charting seasonal botanical motifs which you will then Swiss darn onto a knitted scarf, creating beautifully layered embellishments and a truly personal accessory that's perfect for the cooler months ahead.

Dee Hardwicke ([www.deehardwicke.co.uk/](http://www.deehardwicke.co.uk/) / @deehardwicke) is an artist, designer, knitter and knitting book author who lives and works in Crickhowell. Dee trained in fine arts, studying painting and sculpture and undertaking an apprenticeship with Quaker potters in the Welsh Marches before establishing her studio. Working in the artisan traditions of the Arts & Crafts movement, Dee is endlessly inspired by the beauty of the British landscape from season to season. Her designs – which begin life in her sketchbooks and have been used in exclusive collaborations with partners including the National Trust and Museums & Galleries – celebrate Dee's passion for colour and for the wonders of the natural world. Dee teaches fine art drawing classes and has become renowned for her knitting design and colour workshops which have been held in prestigious venues worldwide such as Liberty, London and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Dee's latest book, *Cultivate* is available now.

# Information

Thursday 23 & Friday 24 October 2025.

Design Studio, Learning Centre, V&A Museum, South Kensington.

10.30 – 16.30

This session will be held on site at V&A South Kensington. Lunch is not included, however, tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

All materials and equipment will be provided, however if you have a favourite tapestry needle and embroidery scissors, please feel free to bring these along.

A scarf pattern from Dee's book *Cultivate* will be provided on booking your place. Ideally, you'll knit the whole scarf to bring to the workshop since you'll be Swiss darning your botanical motifs onto it. A minimum of half a scarf is required. If bringing an incomplete scarf, this needs to be put on a long piece of waste yarn and steamed or wet blocked so it can be laid flat to work on.

There's no need for artistic experience since the workshop is suitable for participants of all artistic abilities, including complete beginners. No knitting skills are required for the class itself, but you do need to bring along a knitted scarf or half a knitted scarf to embroider on as outlined below. Experience with basic stocking stitch is essential.

A copy of Dee's latest book, *Cultivate*, is included in the ticket price and will be available for collection during the workshop.

There will be a maximum of 16 participants in the session.

Suitable for participants aged 18 and over.

This workshop is non-refundable.

## Thursday 23 October

You will arrive to find tables dressed with still lifes of gorgeous autumnal foliage and flowers. Sharing some of the techniques she teaches in her fine art drawing classes – and taking inspiration from these table-top displays – Dee will begin by showing you how to select and combine gorgeous autumn colours – from ochres and burnt oranges, to faded pinks and complex reddish-browns – to create your own botanical motifs in pastels. As Dee explains ‘nature puts colour together so well and in such perfect proportions’ so there's endless inspiration to be found in the tabletop displays. Dee, whose work is steeped in the traditions of the Arts & Crafts movement, will then guide you through the process of selecting yarn palettes and translating your motifs into Swiss darning embroidery and intarsia charts. You will be able to sample yarns from Dee's personal stash, giving you an exciting opportunity to try out different yarns and to enjoy experimenting with new colours and textures when creating your motifs. Dee will be happy to give you details of where to buy these yarns should you wish to use them to complete your project.

## Friday 24 October

Using the charts you created on day one, you will discover how to place and Swiss darn your motifs onto the scarf you have knitted for the workshop, creating a unique and painterly layered effect over the stitches below. This is a lovely technique that Dee has used for several of the stunning scarves in her latest book, *Cultivate*. The scarves – along with some of Dee's original artwork – will be on display throughout the workshop, providing further inspiration and insights into how Swiss darning can be used to embellish your own knits. As Dee will explain, the placing of motifs is a key part of the design process, and you will discover how to experiment with positioning to create the desired effect and to bring your unique scarf design to life.

As an additional element to this special event, everyone will receive a set of the motifs created during the workshop, so you're bound to come away brimming with ideas and inspiration.