

## **E-Textiles: Interactive Projects for the Jacquard Loom**

fall 2009, Wednesdays 9-4, Room SH905 and MI 415

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Techniques and technology from the field of Jacquard weaving and Wearable Computing will be implemented to create projects on the digital TC-1 loom. Interactive weavings will be produced by integrating technology consisting of conductive materials, electronics, and microcontrollers into hand-woven constructions. The course seeks to address hybrid art praxis through the use of everything from pre-historic to cutting-edge technology. Techniques covered in this course will include an introduction everything from making your own electronics from scratch to learning to weave using Photoshop together with the digital Jacquard Loom. Laptop is required.

### **COURSE FEE AND WEAVING EQUIPMENT**

Student will pay a **\$30** materials fee at the beginning of the semester. This fee will cover the cost of the communal warp on the TC-1, most weft yarns, the course reader and other equipment for use in class such as shuttles, bobbins and sleigh hooks. Additionally, students will need to purchase a packet of supplies from the ATS department. These supplies will be used in projects throughout the semester. Students in the class should be aware that they are sharing ONE loom and that they are expected to maintain the loom and promptly attend to problems (such as broken warp threads) when they arise. A class phone list will be handed out at the beginning of the semester so that students can notify one another of scheduling or maintenance problems.

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES – Please bring these to every class session**

USB storage device or CD-/RW, Notebook, Scissors, T-pins, Needles, Measuring Tape or Ruler

### **PROJECTS AND CRITIQUES**

We will have 3 smaller-scale projects that focus on technical aspects of using electronics and the Jacquard loom. Each project will have an open-ended conceptual direction, which students should use to direct their technical exploration. We will talk about and informally critique each of these projects as they come off the loom. The last month of class will be devoted to larger-scale final projects. Each student will conceive of and execute a final project that relates to his or her own body of work or method of inquiry. The technical and conceptual components of the final project should be fully considered to create a cohesive finished work (or series of pieces).

### **CRITIQUES**

Attendance and participation in critiques is mandatory even if your project is not complete. You cannot receive credit for this course if you miss a critique unless it is for a documented medical reason.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance in class is mandatory, even on workdays. If you are not able to attend class for any reason, you must notify me via email or telephone (contact information above).

Attendance will be taken each morning at 9:15 AM. **Three absences or six late arrivals will result in no credit for the course.** I expect that you will be prepared to work the entire duration of class – this means bringing all necessary tools and materials to class.

## **WEEKLY READINGS and CLASS BLOG**

There will be **several** short readings assigned over the course of the semester that will be discussed each class meeting. Each week, 1 or 2 different students will be in charge of leading the discussion about that reading. They will be responsible for bringing up key points raised in the articles and posing questions to the group for discussion. That student should pass out a list of key points for discussion to the class. The class will also maintain a blog where students will be required to post results of their own projects as well as the work of other artists and makers. There are weekly assignments for blog postings. **Active participation in both the reading discussions and blog is required to receive credit for this class.**

## **LOOM ACCESS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

You may weave on the TC-1 during the other classes that are held in 905 however, please be respectful if an instructor asks you to stop while they give a demonstration or lecture. The loom is reserved on a first-come first-served basis by signing up online the calendar on the portal. Weekly maintenance will be performed on the loom by Janette Ramirez. **Please direct any technical questions and/or problems with the loom to Janette at [jramirez1@saic.edu](mailto:jramirez1@saic.edu).** She will be in the department Monday-Friday from 8:30-4 and is, unless otherwise occupied, available to answer questions or troubleshoot problems with the loom during those times. Loom Maintenance: Tuesdays 8:30-9:00AM.

## **LOOM LOG**

For continuity outside of class, there will be a notebook, kept by the loom, for students to learn about any existing problems with the loom (e.g.: broken threads). Every time the loom is used outside of class, students should sign in and note any problems, concerns or corrections on the loom.

## **ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILTIES**

If you have a disability and may need an accommodation, please contact SAIC's Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC) by calling 312-499-4278, or by e-mailing [dlrc@saic.edu](mailto:dlrc@saic.edu). You should contact DLRC as early in the semester as possible. Staff at the DLRC will review your disability documentation and work with you to determine appropriate accommodations. They will then provide you with a letter outlining approved accommodations, which must be presented to me before any accommodations will be implemented.

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM**

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago prohibits academic misconduct, which includes "both plagiarism and cheating, and may consist of the submission of the work of another as one's own; unauthorized assistance on a test or assignment; submission of the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all instructors; or the failure to properly cite texts or ideas from other sources" (Students' Rights and Responsibilities, Student Handbook, [http://www.saic.edu/pdf/life/pdf\\_files/rights.pdf](http://www.saic.edu/pdf/life/pdf_files/rights.pdf)).

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. One can plagiarize even if one does not intend to. The penalty for plagiarizing may range from failure on the specific plagiarized assignment to failure in the class. Repeat offenses can lead to disciplinary action, which could include suspension or expulsion from the School. The Faculty Senate Student Life Subcommittee has prepared a 28-page handbook entitled Plagiarism: How to Recognize It and Avoid It. The document is available online on at [http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism\\_packet.pdf](http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism_packet.pdf).

**Noon Hour Grad Presentations, Room 903 Sharp:**

Presentations begin at 12:10 pm and should last 30-40 minutes.

<b><u>Artist</u></b>	<b><u>lecture date</u></b>
Holly Murkerson	Friday 9/25
Olivia Valentine	Thursday 10/1
Emily Hermant	Monday 10/5
Liliya Lifanova	Wednesday 10/14
Katie Waugh	Wednesday 10/21
Nora Nieves	Tuesday 10/27
Tanya Fleisher	Tuesday 11/3
Jesse Harrod	Monday 11/9
Tara Hills	Thursday 11/19
Sayward Schoonmaker	Friday 12/4
Jongock Kim	Wednesday 12/16

**ADDITIONAL Fiber and Material Studies Departmental lectures:**

**LECTURE: Carole Lung: Thurs Sept 17, 12 noon, SH 902**

[www.fraufiber.com](http://www.fraufiber.com)

[www.sewingrebellion.wordpress.com](http://www.sewingrebellion.wordpress.com)

**TURN OUT – STAND OUT**

***Support of Alternative Apparel Economies!***

*A noontime lecture, by Carole Frances Lung AKA Frau Fiber textile worker and activist. Utilizing a hybrid of playful activism, cultural criticism, research and spirited do-it-yourself to freely distribute her knowledge of apparel production to the masses. Frau Fiber fancies herself to be a competitor with China in the global production of apparel, with the hopes of transforming the value of labor of apparel workers around the globe. All of her efforts have proven futile, however she perseveres!*

**LECTURE: Virgil Marti: Thurs Oct 1, 6 pm, SAIC Auditorium, Columbus Drive**

Hi gallery web site: <http://www.elizabethdeegallery.com/artists/view/virgil-marti>

Winner of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts and a featured artist in the 2004 Whitney Biennial, Virgil Marti creates installations with fabric and wallpaper rooted in both interior design and fine art vocabularies. His work is included in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Fabric Workshop. According to the Philadelphia Post, Marti's "richly gaudy and resonant environments aim to explore questions of taste and style, and the boundaries that separate art from design." This lecture is made possible by The William Bronson and Grayce Slovet Mitchell Lectureship in Fiber and Material Studies.

**LECTURE: Lacey Jane Roberts: Tues Oct 20, 12 noon, Price Auditorium,**

Lacey Jane Roberts will talk about her studio work in a lecture entitled "Craft, Queerness, and Guerilla Tactics." Roberts' work draws from queer feminist fiber histories and shifts into a contemporary moment of fluid boundaries and re-configured identities. Here, she considers craft, its queer qualities, and the use of guerilla tactics as agents of renewed possibilities.