

CHINESE KNOTTING
WITH EUROPA CHANG DAWSON
TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021
10:00AM – 4:00PM



What will you learn?

In this fascinating craft you will join the amazing Europa Chang Dawson and make a bracelet or a brooch using Chinese knots.

Under Europa's guidance you will learn to tie Chinese knots using satin cord (rat-tail cord) with a few beads added. You will then be guided through any techniques needed for finishing off ends and stitching down beads so they stay in place.

Who is your tutor?

Europa grew up tying knots with her grandfather, and he made sure she knew the symbolism of the knots so as to make sure she remembered her Chinese background.

She left China as a refugee, and while going round the world with her parents Europa learned a lot of crafts because she believes using hands is one way of communicating when you can't speak the language!

Europa would have liked to have studied textiles, but in those days it wasn't a degree subject, and her father said firmly that the tradition of the house is an academic degree - so she took Maths(!) and earned her living as a maths teacher. When funds allowed Europa did City & Guilds creative studies courses in Embroidery & Lacemaking, parts 1 & 2 in each discipline (now equivalent to a diploma in each subject) over 8 years - and loved every minute of that.

Europa demonstrate with the West Country Knotters and when the teams are asked to perform, WCK are at the Bristol Harbour Festival, the Underfall Yard Open Days & the Newport Mediaeval Ship Museum Open Days.

Are there any additional costs?

There is an additional cost of £3 for Brooches and £6 for Bracelets for materials payable in cash to the tutor on the day.

What will I need?

Please bring:

- something to stick pins into, such as a block of polystyrene that will take most of the depth of the pin
- glass-headed pins (ordinary ones are OK, but quite painful if you catch on them)
- sewing needle & thread (any neutral colour will do, as it won't show)
- pen/pencil for adding own notes to your charts
- colour pencils/ fine-tipped felt tips, again for adding to your charts
- scissors to cut thread & cord.

How do I find Kingshill House?

Kingshill House can be found in Kingshill Lane in Dursley, on the road down to the new hospital. The entrance is opposite the Fire Station. The address is: Kingshill House, Kingshill Lane, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL11 4BZ.

Is there parking?

Kingshill House has a large free car park on site. (Not always guaranteed at busy times)

What about refreshments?

We will provide morning and afternoon refreshments and a light lunch. (if you have any dietary requirements please send a mail to admin@kingshillhouse.org.uk)

Answers to your Coronavirus questions?

Is Kingshill House open?

In line with the Government guidelines, we are due to re-open for our students in May 2021, offering a large range of art-based classes & workshops, in small groups, within a Covid-secure environment.

I am attending a workshop, what preparations have you made ahead of my visit?

Throughout the past year, the interior of the building has had a complete redecoration. Every room in the public area of the house has been given a fresh coat of paint.

Following every workshop, each room and its contents will be thoroughly cleaned to a high standard.

We have reduced the numbers of students per workshop, to between 6 & 8 students, plus the tutor. Our building is spacious, and we have extra-large training spaces for workshops to take place in.

During workshops, how will you support social distancing?

We have set up our extra-large training spaces with individual workstations, at a distance of two metres apart, one for each individual student plus a 'demo' station for the tutor.

All training rooms have large, fully operational windows and a main entrance door. These will be opened during the duration of workshops to ensure each room has adequate ventilation.

Wherever possible, workshop tutors will make use of alternative methods to assist with demonstration techniques for example, close-up live projections.

Where there is more than one workshop running in one day, we will stagger the break and lunch times, to minimise the number of people using the same communal areas at once.

Do I need to wear a mask whilst attending workshops?

You will need to wear a mask when you are in the public areas. However, when you go into your classroom or refreshment area you can remove your mask if you want, whilst being careful to maintain a 2-metre distance.

Will there be hand sanitiser available?

Generally, each room will have facilities so you can wash your hands regularly (or your room will be in close proximity to the restrooms). We have a hand sanitiser dispenser which we will ask you to use on your arrival at Kingshill House. You can continue to use this sanitiser regularly throughout the day or please feel free to bring your own.

During your visit to us?

You may be asked to follow arrows, follow a one-way system, or wait until facilities like the WC is clear before you use it. It is vital that you follow these instructions – they are for everyone's safety.

To avoid overcrowding in passageways and entrances, we will stagger the break and lunch times for all workshops running on the same day.

Will lunch still be provided and what food/drink can I expect?

Refreshments and Lunch will be served to you at allocated break times and will be served to you by a designated server.

How is my safety and that of the staff being managed at break/lunchtime?

The safety of our students and staff is our priority. To ensure that social distance is maintained we will be implementing the following:

- Designated server for drinks.
- Drink orders will be taken from you during class and bought to you once prepared.
- Hand sanitiser will be available, and students will be encouraged to use it.

If I feel unwell ahead of a workshop, should I attend?

You should not attend. If you are able, you should contact us to let us know that you are unwell as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer refunds for cancellations, but we will consider issuing you a credit note equivalent to 50% of the workshop fee that you can offset against a future workshop. You can contact a member of the office team on 01453 549133 if you wish to discuss it further.

Lastly...

When you attend a workshop with us, our aim is for you to enjoy your time here, to relax and to totally absorb yourself in a new, chosen creative skill. Hopefully, the measures we have taken to ensure your safety, will remove any worries or concerns you may have had about being in a workshop environment again.

Please understand that we are working to new procedures and we might not get it right straight away. As always, we are open to suggestions and constructive feedback, so if you do attend a workshop and something is not quite right, then do tell us and we will do our best to put it right.