

The background of the entire page is a solid reddish-orange color. Scattered around the edges are several spools of red thread. Each spool has a white label with black text. Some of the visible text on the labels includes "LINEN THREAD", "natural flax wet-spun, 5-ply", "± 130 m/140", "30 m/140", "Linen Thread", "natural flax wet-spun, 5-ply", "8 (0.9 oz)", and "25g (0.9 oz)".

TextileArtist.org

A SYSTEM FOR

Experimenting with textiles

How to reflect on your discoveries
and evolve as a textile artist

Lesson 3: Developing your visual vocabulary

Concept 3:

Developing your visual vocabulary

Answer 'Yes' or 'No'

Do you feel empowered and able to develop brave and personal ways of speaking through your techniques and materials?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Does your work evolve in a logical yet organic way from piece to piece?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Does your visual identity get stronger and stronger and more unique with each artwork you create?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Are you confident that your creativity isn't stagnating?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Do you have a clear and methodical way of building on past work and using it to inspire future art?

YES ☐ NO ☐

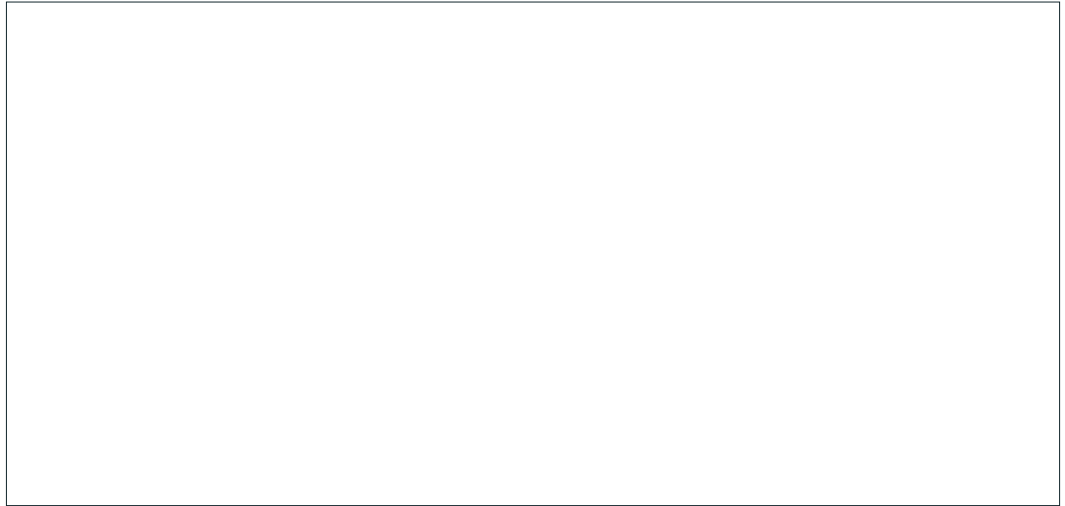
If you answered 'No' to any of the above questions, you may benefit from a more systematic approach to the development of your visual vocabulary.

A recipe to systematically develop your visual vocabulary

1

Ingredient 1: Consistency

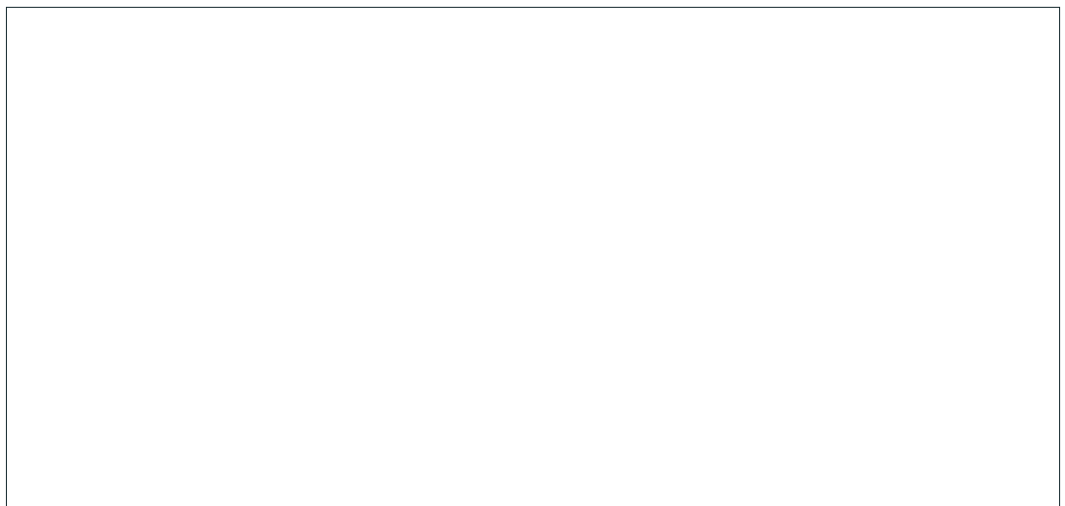
How can you make the prospect of a regular practice more realistic and manageable for you (so that it fits within your life)?



2

Ingredient 2: Experimentation

How could setting goals, embracing limitations and finding inventive ways to push the boundaries of those limitations through structured experimentation help you fulfil your creative potential with textiles and develop a unique visual vocabulary?



A recipe to systematically develop your visual vocabulary



Ingredient 3: Openness

How could structure feed your playful instincts and help you make discoveries?



Ingredient 4: Reflection

What can you learn from reflecting on your past textile art?

A recipe to systematically develop your visual vocabulary



Ingredient 5: Progression

How can what you discover from reflection on past work feed and improve future work? (Which elements can you push further? Which elements feel redundant?)



Ingredient 6: Action

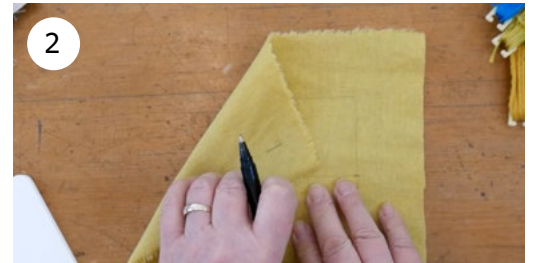
What are the possible ways you can put what you discover from experimentation into your textile art?

How to reflect, progress & take action in response to your samples

Creating a reference



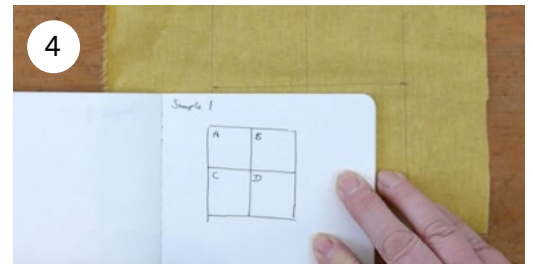
1. Keep a notebook to accompany your samples.



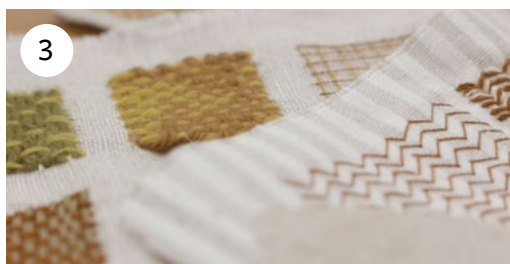
2. Label your samples on their undersides with a number.
If it were the first sample in a series, you'd label it with the number 1.



3. In your notebook, write a heading that corresponds with the number of the sample eg. *Sample 1*.



4. Draw out a reference grid that corresponds with your sample and label the areas of the grid A, B, C and D.



5. As you fill the various areas of the stitched sample, you can make a reference of techniques and materials used in the corresponding area of the drawn grid.



6. You can also jot down ideas that come to mind, questions thrown up by what you've discovered, ways to incorporate a particular texture or pattern into your work.

Now, when you create your next sample you can look back at this reference as a starting point.



Notes



Notes



Notes