

The Artist Among Us is...

Emilia Ponomarev felting experience (both in Russia and US) covers more than 10 thousand hours of felt-making, which means this is not a hobby anymore - it is a passion and a lifestyle. She loves playing with wool fibers creating various art pieces, from garments (coats, dresses, vests, skirts, tunics) and accessories, hats, scarfs, bags, to 3-D objects, wall hangings, and many more. She works mostly in wet-felting technique, applying needle felting where necessary.

Emilia is Russian by origin. I can do quite a lot: quilting, crocheting and knitting; embroidery (beads, lace, cut through); sawing (almost anything if need be). As the saying goes "a need is a mother of all talents" and it conquers all the peaks.

Eventually, she found out about a totally new craft for me at that time - wet felting. She did not fall for it from the first try. But as she learned her way around felt, and its limitless possibilities, she learned that felting can bring joy and inspiration and allow her to apply all her other craft skills and learnings. With every new felted piece, Emilia understood and loved felt more and more.

Even now, since Emilia now has vast experience, she cannot say which felt she like more: heavy or light, thin or thick, clothes or art objects, jewelry or bags, hats, scarves or gloves. She just enjoys seeing her hands creating something new out of wool fibers and whatever else she can bring in to embrace wool. Emilia says, "Wool is very generous and accepts all-natural fiber, fabric and yarn. When felt is loved, it gladly submits to taming. I love the felt from the very beginning of a project all the way through the process."

As an added bonus, Emilia feels that felting has helped relieve her internal fears. She explained, that when we are often afraid to make an irreparable mistake - as in felting, as long as you do quality work, a mistake is a just a door to an unexpected creative outcome.

The longer she works with wool fibers, the more she falls in love with the process, with the material, with - very often - unexpected results, and, most important, with the endless possibilities of felt. Each new project is still a new experience for Emilia.

Emilia loves sharing her knowledge and experience. You will find FREE online felting classes at Teachable platform rufeltonline.teachable.com and feelgoodfelts.com/rufeltonline.

For more information about Emilia's work email her at emilia@feelgoodfelts.com or visit www.feelgoodfelts.com

