

# Textile Artistry: Creating Art to Wear

**Catherine Kueffer Blumenkamp**, Designer + Draper + Lecturer in the  
Department of Human Centered Design, College of Human Ecology  
**Trish Ramsay**, Fine Artist + Special Guest

Greetings,

French couturier Madeleine Vionnet was inspired by the silhouettes of the traditional Greek chiton and peplos, finding them interesting because of the way a simple rectangular cloth could circulate and interact with the body through a system of tucks and folds. She stated, “the couturier should be a geometrician, for the human body makes geometrical figures to which the materials should correspond.” Draping is a method for creating original designs with fabric on a three dimensional body form.

I look forward to welcoming you to the course *Textile Artistry: Creating Art to Wear*. We will experiment with materials and proportion through hands on activities, observing the interplay of fabric, shape, and silhouette. We will visit the Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection, an archive of over 10,000 artifacts, for inspiration and understanding the value of material culture. We will welcome special guests, including professor emeritus Susan P. Ashdown, co-author of *Draping for Apparel Design*, and fine artist Trish Ramsay.

In the beginning of the week, Trish will guide us through creating a unique set of hand painted and printed textiles to be incorporated in our draping practice throughout the week. In the spirit of sustainability, we will maximize the use of our unique textiles and aim to yield zero fabric waste to create original designs resulting in a one of a kind garment to wear or to give.

All the necessary tools, materials, and supplies will be provided; nonetheless, you are welcome to bring your own, too. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns as you prepare for the course. I look forward to meeting you in person soon!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blumenkamp', written in a cursive style.

Catherine K. Blumenkamp

# Catherine Kueffer Blumenkamp

Designer + Draper + Lecturer

*My work is guided by interests in material culture and the aesthetic, cultural, and collective meanings of design. As a lecturer in Human Centered Design, I teach courses in fashion, aesthetics and society and fashion draping, host workshops that invite outside experts to share their experience with the HCD community, and serve as associate director of the Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection.*

*As a designer, I create bespoke garments and offer design consulting and project management. My studio practice informs my teaching and vice versa. Whether I am mentoring students, curating an exhibit, or working on a commission, I enjoy bringing people together in ways that maximize their talents and seeing where the creative process takes them.*

# Trish Ramsay

Fine Artist + Special Guest

*My work explores the push and pull of spatial, gestural, and relational states of being. I tread in a conceptual area where the mundane, subliminal, and dramatic collide to create a space where viewers may insert their own meanings. I use pliant materials such as textiles, wax, pigment, wood, and metal to explore tension between flat and dimensional, drawn and constructed; playing upon how the works read as drawing, object, or environment.*

*My recent creative activities include creating collaborative and socially engaged projects. These include Time & Cloth, a collaboration with Cornell University Draper/Designer Catherine Blumenkamp, and my ongoing interdisciplinary work with Biology Faculty for the Art + Biology + Community program I developed for underserved students and teachers in Walker County, Texas.*

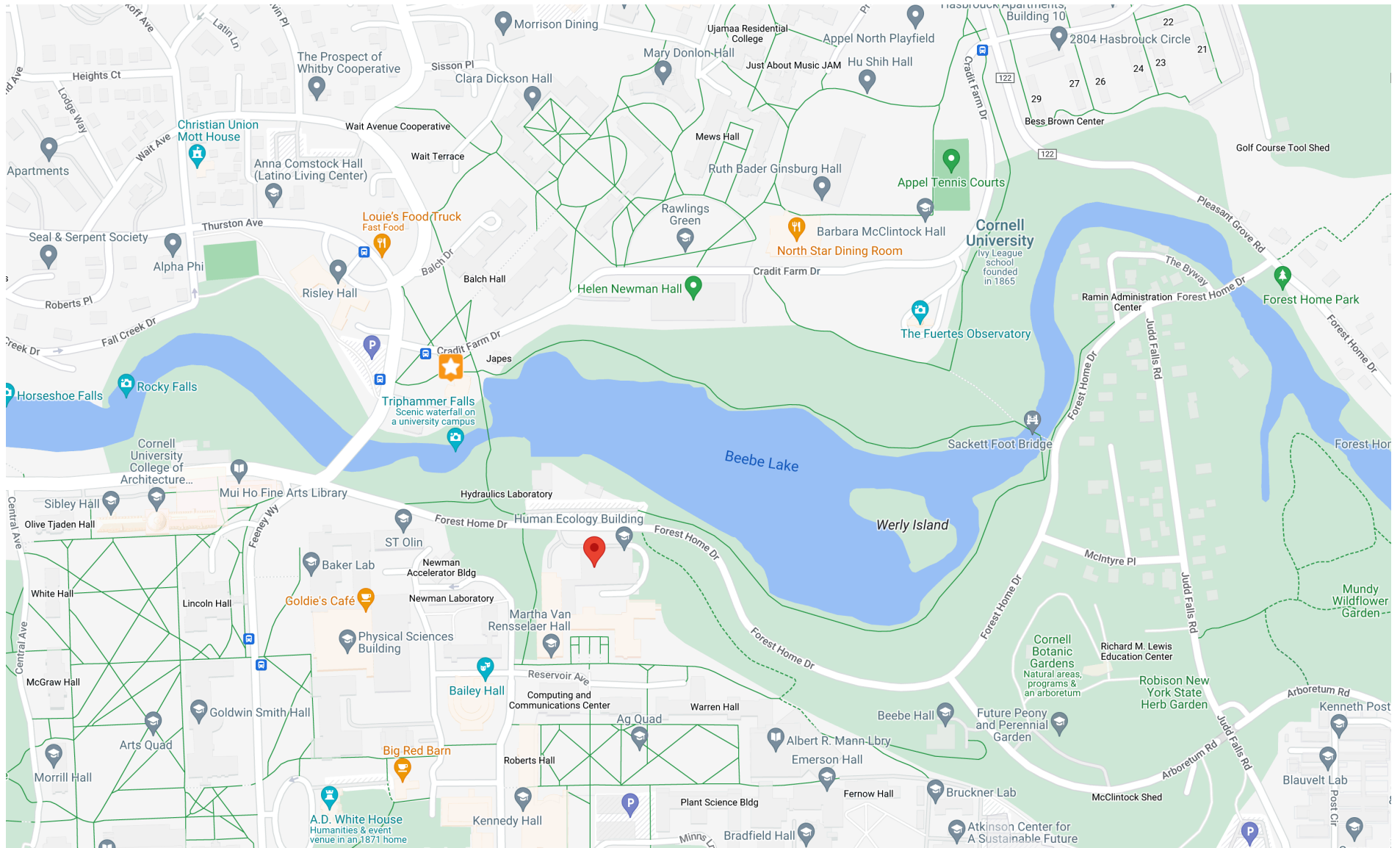
# Textile Artistry: Creating Art to Wear

## Course description

This course introduces surface design processes for textiles and draping techniques for garment design and construction. We will make unique, silk samples and yardage that will be used to create a blouse. Students will explore color theory and pattern through low-immersion dyeing, batik and Itajime Shibori (Japanese clamp resist) methods. Using our handmade silks, students will explore the sculptural qualities of cloth on the body using draping methods and a zero-waste approach.

# Textile Artistry: Creating Art to Wear

Course location: Human Ecology Building, Room 141



# Textile Artistry: Creating Art to Wear

## Course schedule

AGENDA	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00-12:00	Course Introduction & Tour: Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection	Studio: Practice Surface Design Techniques & Create Samples	Studio: Discover the Art of Draping & Guest: Susan Ashdown, PhD. Professor Emeritus	Studio: Practice the Art of Draping	Studio: Synthesis and Refining Ideas
1:30-3:30	Studio: Explore Surface Design Techniques	Studio: Practice Surface Design Techniques & Create Final Fabrics	FREE TIME <i>CF+TC Open House</i>	Studio: Practice the Art of Draping & Create Original Designs	Studio: Project Critique

Suggested reading...



4th Edition

# Draping for Apparel Design

**Helen Joseph-Armstrong**  
**Susan P. Ashdown**

FAIRCHILD BOOKS

*“Draping for Apparel Design, Fourth Edition is the fully updated and revised edition of the seminal book pioneered by fashion education luminary Helen Joseph-Armstrong. This comprehensive guide provides step-by-step instruction for the beginning patternmaker and advanced techniques for the more experienced. Maintaining the vast array of examples and the book’s easy-to-read style, revising author Susan Ashdown reflects current industry standards, both metric and imperial measurements, images of diverse body types, and information about half scale forms. New material on jackets, coats, and loose-fitted knitwear add to this book’s breadth of knowledge.”*



# The Surface Designer's Handbook

Dyeing, Printing, Painting,  
and Creating Resists on Fabric

Holly  
Brackmann

*"Beginning with studio practices and safety rules, this information-packed handbook is appropriate for both newcomers and experienced dyers but assumes that readers have a serious interest in textile design. An overview of dyeing starts with fibers and fabrics and discusses all aspects of the dyes favored by textile studios--fiber reactive, acid, vat, and disperse--before explaining discharging, screen printing, monoprinting, stamping, stenciling, resist dyeing, devore, and painting. Would-be fabric artists are advised along the way to identify a personal approach to dyeing--free spirit? rule-follower?--and color photographs of work by today's top fiber artists elucidate prevailing styles. Recipes and techniques are accompanied by step-by-step instructions with photographs, and a concealed spiral binding allows the book to lie flat. Ten appendices include a worksheet for recording chemicals, procedures, and costs for all projects; a guide to washing fabric; descriptions of stock solutions, thickeners, and steaming; a metric conversion table; and a guide to water temperatures."*



# Color by Design

**PAINT AND PRINT WITH DYE**

• SECOND EDITION •

Ann Johnston

*“It’s Fast, Simple, and Exciting... Color by Design: Paint and Print with Dye shows you how to dye cottons and silks in an incredible range of colors and patterns—without changing the feel of your fabric. Using every tool imaginable—from brushes, sponges, stamps, and blocks to rollers, sprays, silk screens, and more—you will discover an endless array of techniques. Right away you will be able to create your own distinctive marks and colors, and with practice, you will create intricate designs with confidence and spontaneity. The updated Second Edition includes two all new chapters about mixing and dyeing blacks and about preparing and using corn and potato dextrin, the most versatile water-soluble resists.”*



timo  
rissanen

–  
holly  
mcquillan

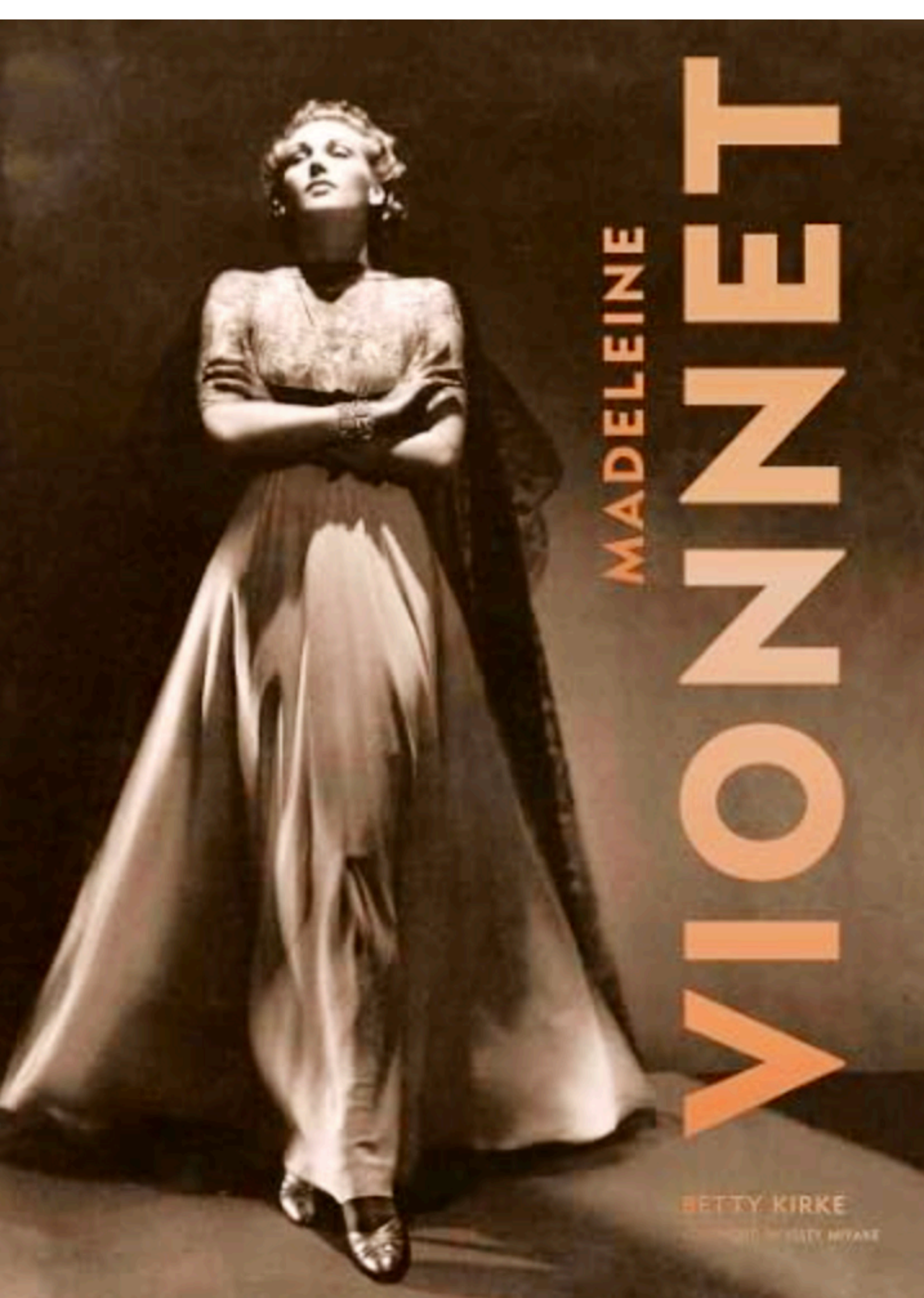
# zero waste fashion design

B L O O M S B U R Y

*“Zero Waste Fashion Design combines research and practice to introduce a crucial sustainable fashion design approach.*

*Written by two industry leading pioneers, Timo Rissanen and Holly McQuillan, the book offers flexible strategies and easy-to-master zero waste techniques to help you develop your own cutting edge fashion designs.*

*Sample flat patterns and more than 20 exercises will reinforce your understanding of the zero waste fashion design process. Beautifully illustrated interviews with high-profile, innovative designers, including Winifred Aldrich, Rickard Lindqvist and Yeohlee Teng, show the stunning garments produced by zero waste fashion design.”*



*“This ‘spectacular tribute to a designer of breathtaking grace and originality’ (Threads) is the definitive volume on the legendary Madeleine Vionnet’s life and work. Now back in print with a fresh new cover, this reissue marks the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the House of Vionnet and the revival of the Vionnet brand. Lavishly illustrated in over 400 photographs, sketches, and with complete patterns for 30 of the most influential designs of this architect among dressmakers, this exquisite volume is an essential reference for fashion students and a vibrant portrait of a grande dame of 20th century couture.”*