

## Introducing Ingrid Wagner



Ingrid Wagner is a textile artist and designer who has lived and worked in many different countries around the world. She runs a textile design business which specialises in creating exclusive and exciting art for the floor and wall in the contemporary interior. Her stock collection is inspired by her global travels and she also works to commission. Additionally, Ingrid runs a travel company which offers creative skills trips to Morocco, together with an in-depth experience of a different culture. Both businesses are based at the Mushroom Works Studios in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Ingrid's artwork has been featured in many regional publications including Culture magazine, Concept for Living, Living North, the Journal & Chronicle, North East Exclusive and the House Hunter. Nationally, she has appeared in Real

Homes magazine, Craftsman and Selvedge.

Ingrid is also a writer, photographer, trained dancer, former BBC dubbing editor, keen traveller and has over 10 years experience in teaching English as a Foreign Language in different cultures around the world. She has a strong interest in education, enterprise and developing the creative in an individual. Ingrid has formed links with regional schools and education, culture & enterprise agencies to deliver programmes which are thought provoking, exciting and creative. She has worked with many levels & abilities of students.

She received a **Business Award** in 2007 from **Tyne & Wear Education Business Links** for her outstanding contribution to preparing young people for employment or Higher Education

**Below is a list of partners with whom Ingrid regularly works:**

***Creative Partnerships, Northumberland*** (Artists in Schools)

***Enterprising Newcastle*** (Walker College trip to Morocco Summer 2006 / Enterprise workshop facilitator)

***The Forge, County Durham*** (Connect scheme – Artist placement in schools)

***Gateshead Education Business Links*** (Textile workshops at Mushroom Works / Professional Development programmes)

***Newcastle Education Business Partnership*** (Textiles at Work studio visits by regional Schools & Workshops in Schools)

***People into Enterprise*** (Arts, Culture & Enterprise workshop facilitator)

***Reaction, Northumberland*** (Enterprise Fairs in high schools)

***Tyne & Wear Economic Development Company*** (Enterprise in Education)

## TEXTILES

### Big Knit Workshop

**Code BKC**



Big Knitting is a new and exciting method of knitting using multiple strands of coloured fibre and/or fabric simultaneously. In a short space of time, it can produce big single pieces of quality which have the potential to be used as much in home furnishings as they could be in the fashion industry.

No sewing is involved. There are no complicated stitches to learn. Students will only need to know/learn how to cast on and off, and knit in garter and stocking stitch. The emphasis in this workshop is not on stitch type, but on the introduction to the creative use of a new technique.

Big Knitting is fun, fast and will open your students' eyes to a new image for handknitting and its use of new tools and materials.

#### **This one day workshop will introduce your students to:**

- A contemporary & very different approach to a traditional craft
- New tools and techniques e.g. needle lengths on a 1 day workshop are 400mm & 600mm
- The creative use and handling of multiple strands of fibre and fabric

#### **The workshop will introduce or heighten awareness of:**

- Colour and tonal values (in multiple strand knitting)

#### **and will encourage:**

- A creative approach to the use of alternative materials
- An appreciation of the use & origin of natural fibres (wool & cotton)
- New approaches to the design & making of a piece of fabric
- The development of fine motor skills & coordination practice

**Length of time:** Whole day workshop

**Cost:** £200 plus expenses (materials & travelling)

**Please note** that on this workshop, a materials cost per student of £5 will be applicable, to cover fibre use. Two sizes of needle will be available for the students to try out during the workshop. These will also be available for them to buy at the end of the day, if they would like to do this. Alternatively, the school might also want to invest in pairs for future use.

400mm L, 25mm diam: £15.00 per pair    600mm L 25mm diam: £20.00 per pair

## TEXTILES

### Rug Tufting Workshop

**Code RTC**



Rug Tufting is an industrial technique used to create rugs and wallcoverings for the domestic & corporate interior. The rug tufting gun is driven by compressed air and electricity and fires fibre through a polyester & nylon canvas. A blade automatically cuts the tufts to a length dictated by the interchangeable steel needle. The tufts are held in place at the finish of the work by latex, an industrial glue, and the work is backed by hessian.

Workshops take place in Ingrid's studio at the Mushroom Works. The studio is equipped with a 4m x 4m frame bolted to the studio floor. There are two rug tufting guns and a selection of coloured fibres available for use.

The workshop will involve the following;

- Preparation for design: from sketchbook to canvas
- Practical preparation for rug tufting: stretching the canvas onto a smaller frame for insertion into fixed frame
- How the rug tufting gun works. Includes:
  - a) technical specifications
  - b) air compressor
  - c) operation of gun
- Practical demonstration and teaching of industrial rug tufting techniques
- Use of colour in gun tufting
- Fibre construction and the importance of fibre knowledge in textile construction
- Finishing techniques



The students will be able to take a finished piece of work away.

**Length of time:** Whole day workshop or equivalent student time over one week can be negotiated

**No. of students:** 2 per workshop or over negotiated time during one week

**Cost:** £85 per student including materials cost

## Sketchbook Development Workshop

Code SKD



Ingrid Wagner has travelled the world. From Russia to Morocco, her experiences are reflected in her fascinating collection of sketchbooks which accompany her everywhere on her travels. She works with a variety of materials.

Ingrid's striking and colourful rugs, wallcoverings and multimedia paintings, created in her studio at the Mushroom Works, Newcastle, all have their origin in Ingrid's sketchbooks. She is also a talented photographer, but understands the difference between thinking through drawing and recording what she sees through a lens.

The aim of the workshop is to free up the students' approach to sketchbook development and gain an insight into translating the drawn image to a design and on to a finished product.

The students will have the opportunity to:

- See a selection of Ingrid's sketchbooks & hear about how she records on her travels
- View some of the larger works which have grown from this essential beginning & trace their evolution
- React to and discuss what they see
- Undertake practical exercises in developing an idea
- Make use of a variety of materials to interpret one idea

The students will also be able to:

- Examine their own ways of working and identify where they may need to loosen up
- Discuss the importance of drawing and/or the use of a camera for recording an image

**Length of time:** Morning or afternoon session, lasting approximately 2.5 hours  
Whole day, structured around students' needs

**Cost:** £100 half day session plus expenses (materials & travelling)  
£200 whole day session plus expenses (materials & traveling)

## Arts & Business Workshop

**Code ABC**



*Interiority exhibition  
Ingrid Wagner & Heidi Ranson*

This interactive group workshop for your students can be tailored to the requirements of your particular group. Ingrid's approach encourages active participation and questions throughout. She has many stories to tell about her travel adventures and how they have contributed to both her businesses.

Emphasis on this workshop will be placed on the artist working in business. The workshop can take place either at the Mushroom Works using Ingrid's studio and the MW gallery, or at college.

Example topics might include:

- Background to Ingrid's business start up – stories from Russia to Morocco to Newcastle
- What makes a creative business different to selling toothpaste
- Textile techniques employed in Rug & Art Creation products
- Successes and failures within business – why both are important; examples of Ingrid's experiences and what has been learned as a result
- Funding available and help received to set the business up
- Future direction & development of the business – the importance of these and how to shape them
- Gamble or calculated risk – understanding the difference
- Exhibitions – how to set one up; key issues to consider
- Personal qualities needed to run a successful business

Emphasis during the workshop can be placed on either Ingrid's textile & art business, or equally shared with her travel business: Ingrid Wagner Real World Journeys, which offers small group creative skills breaks to Morocco. This will very much depend on the needs or interests of the students.

**Length of time:** Morning or afternoon session, lasting approximately 2.5 hours  
Whole day, structured around students' needs

**Cost:** £100 half day session plus expenses (materials & travelling)  
£200 whole day session plus expenses (materials & travelling)

## **So, what is it like working with Ingrid Wagner?**

Ingrid is passionate about supporting young people and opening their eyes to what can be achieved through self-belief and a will to succeed. She does this through her own entertaining stories of enterprise and how to bounce back from disappointment. She is an experienced traveller and has many accessible links abroad which can either fuel interactive discussions or form the basis of an experiential learning trip. She is truly a worthwhile partner for any school or college.

### ***Shirley Green, Newcastle Education Business Partnership***

People Into Enterprise has used Ingrid as an entrepreneurial role model and workshop tutor at many of our courses and events over 3 years. Ingrid is very warm, funny and intelligent, and can relate to a variety of different audiences. I consistently receive great feedback from her role model workshops, where she talks about herself and her journey into business. I have also had great feedback from her hands-on workshops which have included felt wall-hangings, extreme knitting, bag and cushion making and creating frames from junk.

Having studied the theory of both business & art, putting these into practice on a daily basis allows Ingrid to talk with genuine authority and understanding. She communicates this to others with a simplicity and directness which is both instructional, inspiring and fun.

I have no reservations in recommending Ingrid for similar workshops in the future.

### ***Alison Tilley, People Into Enterprise***

Walker students have worked with Ingrid at the Mushroom Workshops, where they have taken part in a project to create wall murals and hangings based on the Byker Shipyards. The sessions have been fun as Ingrid always inspires her clients with new ideas and encourages young people to explore their own personalities through art expression.

We have all benefited from meeting Ingrid and I would not hesitate to recommend her to another audience.

### ***Mrs KG Davidson*** ***Assistant Headteacher, Walker Technology College***

Ingrid created a Professional Development Placement day at The Mushroom Works which was very successful. Teachers felt inspired and full of fresh ideas to take back to their schools. I hope we will get an opportunity to work with Ingrid again in the future.

### ***Debbie Rowe, Project Officer, Gateshead Education Business Links team***

Young people, aged 13 and 14, from 3 different regional schools, visited Ingrid in her studios as part of the programme for Creativity in the Arts, Curriculum Support Programme.

The first impression was of the amazing riot of colour that Ingrid worked amongst – they had not realised that a workplace could be like that. They were all completely captivated by the way that Ingrid explained about her work and career and were clearly impressed by their visit. So much so that one of the students is now seriously considering a career in textiles and another group of students are in contact with her regarding the design of the set of their TV programme.

I can thoroughly recommend a visit to Ingrid's studios as an inspiration for young people. Industry days such as these help to motive students to achieve their potential by helping them to see the relevance of what they are doing in school which could improve their skills for work.

***Catherine Ather, Project Officer, Gateshead Education Business Links***

It was such a good experience for the students to see how artists actually worked. Both the students and teachers were totally inspired by yourself, and the vivid colours that you use. At least one of the girls has not shut up about it since and is adamant that she wants to pursue a creative career.

I hope that we can continue to work together in the future, because you clearly have a gift for communicating with young people.

***Philippa Rapper, Project Manager, Young Creatives (Creative Partnerships)***

## What can an International Arts, Culture and Enterprise programme do for your young people and for your college?



**Widening horizons and developing young people's aspirations** is a core part of our International programme. Taking young people out of their usual environment and introducing them to **a new experience**, socially, culturally and economically, will challenge them.

**Real World Journey's trips provide a safe and secure environment** within which your young people can face these challenges and out of which

they can grow as a result. We work with an experienced on the ground team in Morocco to make this happen.

### A Global Dimension – Linking to your curriculum

The **International Arts, Culture & Enterprise** programme gives you the opportunity to integrate the **global dimension** into your curriculum. Key concepts include global citizenship, diversity, interdependence, social justice, sustainable development and values & perceptions. The programme aims to **raise your young people's awareness of another culture** and enable them to begin to understand and appreciate life from a different perspective. It is seen as a valuable part of your students' personal development. It is also something which they are unlikely to experience on their own initiative. It further aims to:

- Develop enterprise and employability skills of post-16 students in preparation for their progression into the workplace or to start up in business
- Encourage entrepreneurial thinking
- Promote the use of creativity and imagination
- Facilitate personal development & learning

You can work with Ingrid to develop a programme specific to your students' needs. This may be:

#### (1) **Enterprise & Culture**

Your students will have the opportunity to:

- **See how enterprise works in another country** through observation of daily working life both in mountain and city communities
- **Listen to** Moroccan people who have developed their own businesses
- **Visit artisan workshops** and learn some of the techniques employed
- **Take part in** a programme which delivers enterprise training pre & post trip. Part of this training can support the start up of a social



enterprise business within your school, linked to the trip abroad.

**We work with** Enterprise agencies, such as Enterprising Newcastle, to deliver this programme. The programme also prepares your students for their new experiences in Morocco.

Please request more details on how we did this for Walker College and what we can do for you

## (2) **Arts & Culture – base: Marrakech**

The art & design focus of this trip will:

- Contribute to the students' artistic practice
- Widen their awareness of art & design practices in non-European countries
- Introduce them to new ways of working
- Give the students a real world, real time experience which can be linked to the project/s already begun at college

Your students will have the opportunity to **undergo training in specific skill areas of Moroccan craftwork, according to their particular disciplines** i.e.



textiles, interior design techniques, mosaics, calligraphy, shoemaking (a full list is available on request)



led by fully vetted masters in their craft. Students will also be able to visit stunning examples of Islamic architecture to develop their sketchbook work.

Back up information on the arts & culture of Morocco will be supplied to your students both pre and during the trip itself, to enable them to benefit to the full from their experience

## **So why Morocco? A brief overview**

Rich in its cultural heritage, artisan workers and design development, Morocco's skill base is a rich resource for learning & training for your students. The country also offers the experience of a very different culture, giving your students the chance to gain an insight into another way of life among what must be one of the most hospitable peoples in the world. At its heart, the Moroccan culture is also enterprising. Here there are no government grants or funds to support a business, and Moroccans generally develop their enterprising skills on their own initiatives, driven both by need and opportunity. On this basis alone, the country offers a different experience to learn from.

**Please contact us for more detailed information, examples of programmes and how our trips are managed and delivered.**

**We are happy to answer any questions which you may have.**

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## What International Partners say about working with Ingrid Wagner

I worked with Ingrid on the development of an International Enterprise Development programme to support young people to develop enterprising skills. This involved a ten day trip to Morocco with a group of students from Walker Technology College.

During their visit to Morocco, the young people discovered the meaning of enterprise in a diverse environment and experienced the culture of a very different country.

Ingrid proved to be an extremely motivational and capable leader, with an impressive ability to organise and deliver the programme in her enthusiastic, friendly and colourful demeanor.

Throughout the development of the programme and during the visit in Morocco, Ingrid enabled the whole of the team to participate and gave everyone the chance to develop their own personal and creative skills; each team member involved came away with their own personal development and discovery from the new experiences which were presented during the programme.

I have the utmost respect for Ingrid's values and her business ethos and would have no hesitation in recommending working with Ingrid in either a personal or professional capacity.

*Julie Dawson*

**Enterprising Newcastle**

I met Ingrid at a sixth form Gear Up conference where she inspired both staff and students with her outstanding achievements in relation to her enterprising craft skills and setting up of Real World Journeys to Morocco.

Ingrid was invited to plan a two-week trip to Morocco for our final & penultimate year mixed ability students. She organised a truly adventurous trip to include the experience of the Marrakech markets, a trip into the Atlas Mountains, hands on trades experience, local visits, and relaxation in a local Riyadh. Without Ingrid's contacts, experience and passion for adventure, this trip would not have taken place. The students involved gained a huge insight into the local trades and enterprising lifestyle of the local people.

We intend to have a return trip to Morocco with Ingrid next year if she can cope with the lively banter from the Walker bairns!!

**Mrs KG Davidson**  
**Assistant Headteacher, Walker Technology College**