

What If (Community) Art Group - 2026 Programme

Free self-led art sessions every Tuesday between 1pm to 3pm at The Meeting Place, Orchard Centre, Dartford. Workshop program as per below - 3pm to 5pm with a £5 voluntary donation

February	3 rd	Silk Painting with Ruth Silk painting applies dye to silk, letting colour flow and blend naturally. Using simple resist and layering, you will create soft, luminous patterns.
February	17 th	Taster Session - Scrap Quilting with Mandy Scrap quilting turns leftover fabrics into colourful, improvisational patchwork pieces.
March	3 rd	Taster Session - Visible Mending with Mandy Visible mending celebrates the history and beauty of worn textiles. You will learn mindful stitching techniques that turn repairs into expressive, story-filled designs.
March	17 th	Taster Session - Kantha Stitching with Mandy Kantha is a running-stitch technique used to repurpose cloth in India. You will learn this simple technique and enjoy the calming, repetitive flow of mindful stitching.
March	31 st	Taster Session - Sashiko with Mandy Sashiko is a Japanese decorative stitching method. You will practice classic patterns, explore tools and fabrics, and create a small decorative piece.
April	14 th	Collage with Ruth Layer paper, textures, and found materials to create expressive, one-of-a-kind compositions in a playful, intuitive way.
April	28 th	Taster Session - Mindful Journalling with Mandy Mindful journalling blends reflective writing, mark-making, and simple art techniques to help you tune into your thoughts in a calm, nurturing space.
May	12 th	Silk Painting with Ruth Silk painting applies dye to silk, letting colour flow and blend naturally. Using simple resist and layering, you will create soft, luminous patterns in a playful, absorbing process.
June	2 nd	Simple Mono Printing with Elly Mono printing creates one-of-a-kind images using ink and simple tools. Explore layering, texture, and spontaneous mark-making in a fun, freeing way.
June	23 rd	Collage with Ruth Layer paper, textures, and found materials to create expressive, one-of-a-kind compositions in a playful, intuitive way.
July	7 th	Slow Drawing with Mandy Slow drawing focuses on gentle, meditative mark-making. You will explore natural forms and patterns in a calm, mindful creative process.

In Ruth, Elly and Mandy's absence on a Tuesday, Doris has a key for the cupboard.
Please call 01322 289383 to contact The Meeting Place

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July	21 st	Momigami – Paper to Fabric with Mandy Momigami is a Japanese technique that transforms paper into soft, fabric-like sheets. You will create tactile surfaces perfect for stitching, folding, or collage in a hands-on, soothing process.
August	4 th	Art with Botanical Brushes with Mandy Create and use brushes from leaves, twigs, and grass to make expressive, unpredictable marks, adding playful freedom to your artwork.
August	25 th	Nature Weaving with Mandy Nature weaving transforms leaves, grasses, and seed heads into simple, earthy compositions, encouraging observation and a connection with the natural world.
September	1 st	Circular Weaving with Mandy Circular weaving lets you create small, sculptural pieces on a round loom, exploring rhythm, texture, and colour in a meditative, enjoyable way.
September	8 th	Branch Weaving with Mandy Branch weaving uses natural branches as looms. You will weave fibres into sculptural, textured pieces that feel organic and expressive.
September	15 th	Neurography with Collage with Mandy Neurography combines flowing lines with mindfulness. Paired with intuitive collage, it creates layered, personal artworks without needing prior drawing experience.
September	29 th	Easy Alcohol Inks with Mandy Create vibrant, flowing patterns using alcohol markers and everyday alcohol in a playful, experimental process.
October	6 th	Slow Drawing with Mandy Slow drawing focuses on gentle, meditative mark-making. You will explore natural forms and patterns in a calming, mindful creative process.
October	13 th	Get to know your brushes with Mandy Learn how brush shape, angle, and pressure affect marks. This practical session helps you gain confidence and discover textures with the brushes you already own.
October	20 th	Painting Water in Watercolour with Ruth Explore simple watercolour techniques for painting water, from reflections and ripples to light and movement. Build confidence through playful experiments with colour and brushwork.
November	3 rd	Plein Air – Watercolour Landscape with Ruth Paint outdoors from the landscape around you, using watercolour to capture colour, light, and atmosphere. Enjoy a relaxed approach to observing and painting what you see.
November	10 th	Mindful Journalling with Mandy Mindful journalling blends reflective writing, mark-making, and simple art techniques to help you tune into your thoughts in a calm, nurturing space.

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November	17 th	Collage (Part 1) with Ruth Layer paper, textures, and found materials to create expressive, one-of-a-kind compositions in a playful, intuitive way.
December	1 st	Collage (Part 2) with Ruth Layer paper, textures, and found materials to create expressive, one-of-a-kind compositions in a playful, intuitive way.
December	8 th	Momigami – Paper to Fabric with Mandy Momigami is a Japanese technique that transforms paper into soft, fabric-like sheets. You will create tactile surfaces perfect for stitching, folding, or collage in a hands-on, soothing process.

Excursions

Friday, 13 th March	Royal Watercolour Society Exhibition, Bankside Meet Up (Free)
Thursday, 14 th May	Shoreham Aircraft Museum Sketching Party (£5 entry on arrival)
Wednesday, 17 th June	Greenwich Park/Observatory Sketching Party (Free to visit the park / £24 entry fee to the observatory)
Thursday, 25 th June	Margate, Archers Coach Travel Group Day Trip (£27.50 coach fee)
Thurs, 9 th or Fri 10 th July	Lavender Fields, Castle Farm Sketching Party (Free to visit farm and shop, entry fee to go into The Lavender Fields)
Sat, 11 th or Sun 12 th July	Carry on Crafting Festival, Ardingly Meet Up (£15 pre-book or pay on arrival)
Friday, 31 st July	Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy Meet Up (£25.50 pre-booked ticket essential)
Monday, 3 rd August	Frida Kahlo: Making of an Icon, Tate Modern Meet Up (£25 pre-booked ticket essential)

- Please buy your ticket and arrange your own transport for Meet Ups or Sketching Parties
- Please either buy your ticket for the Group Day Trip from Archers, or via Ruth/Elly