

# Knitwear Design Workshop with Deborah Newton!

A Four-Day Retreat on Block Island, RI  
September 17-21, 2017

Expand your skills with one of the industry's great designers. Discover and learn about the process, inspirations, fabrics, garments and technical aspects of knitwear design.



Deborah Newton



Hosted by North Light Fibers, a Micro Yarn Mill on one of the most inspiring islands in the world

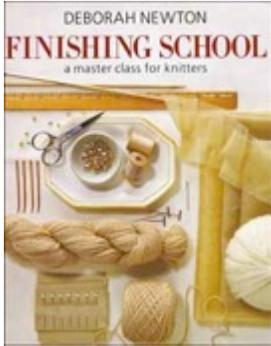


Space is limited - sign up early to ensure your spot

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# Deborah Is A World-Renowned Designer and Industry Leader

“Deborah has so much to offer knitters seeking to learn more about designing. With over 30 years of experience designing professionally she has also written three classic and very influential books that are texts on design and



finishing techniques (the real test of a good designer lies in the way they finesse their finishing). She has the ability to inspire would-be-designers to create a step-by-step design process, and help seasoned designers take their skills to a new level as she imparts to them the technicalities of swatching, sketching, testing, fit and finishing.”



**Trisha Malcolm**, Editor-in-Chief - Vogue Knitting

“Deborah Newton is an accomplished designer, and has contributed many essential designs to the Classic Elite Yarns' collections over the years. Her work is innovative yet approachable, and her finished patterns are technically accurate and well written. We consider Deb an expert in all aspects of knitwear design, from construction, to thoroughness, to approachable fashion.”



**Betsy Perry**, Classic Elite yarns



“Deborah Newton is a master of detailed design with a deep understanding of garment construction and the art of knitting. She's also masterful at explaining her process in a relaxed, relatable and understandable way. Deborah has a talent for looking at a concept from different angles enabling her to figure out student's stumbling blocks and how they can overcome them.”

**Norah Gaughan**, designer and author of *Knitting Nature and Knitted Cable Sourcebook*

# Deb's Goals and Expectations!

- Absorb Deborah's design process—from yarn to finished instruction and how to capture the inspirations around you
- Learn how to work & develop inspiring swatches
- Gain a greater understanding of how to approach both knitted garments & accessory projects
- Understand body measurements, how to interpret them and how to design knitted pieces with these in mind
- Explore sizing issues for knitted garments of all shapes and sizes
- Capture your knitting/designing ideas on paper and in digital form
- Develop a designer's "eye" for knitwear and to identify your own strengths as a knitwear designer
- Learn the up-front planning and the shortcuts that help avoid issues in the midst of a knitted project



- Understand how finishing can take a design from the mundane to the truly unique
- Come away with more confidence about how to approach an idea, how to visualize it, and how to make it happen
- Share design ideas and professional concerns with a seasoned industry designer
- Find inspiration in the environment as you walk the beaches, go for a swim or enjoy the nature trails
- Be part of the Block Island experience, one of Deb's favorite places in the world

# A 4-Day Knitwear Design Workshop

## The Retreat Plan

### SUNDAY WELCOMING DINNER

Where does inspiration come from?

- Become inspired, provoked and amused through Deb's opening presentation
- Start your designer's "mindset" percolating with an overview of Deb's design process and understand why it works

### DAY ONE—Focus on Yarn and Fabrics

Session 1: Yarn and fabric

- Analyze knitwear fabrics of all kinds, their characteristics and best uses, based on a review of the materials and Deborah's huge collection of swatches
- Study the connection between yarns and fibers-- how they contribute to fabrics and designs

Island Tour

- Experience the inspiring views, waters, colors, landscapes and soak in the beauty of Block Island

Session 2: Swatching for the best fabric

- Discuss swatching during an in-depth slide show - the basis of her own design process
- Become aware of how a detailed swatch "tells the story of the design to come"
- Learn the importance of working out fabric issues in a swatch—creating a successful fabric, balancing pattern elements
- Choose a swatch from your work to follow through to becoming a finished "project," based on homework done with Deborah's guidance

#### Evening sharing: Accessories!

Before dinner, Deb will lead a discussion regarding accessories and their characteristics. We will start work on a small design project to use North Light Fibers yarns. At the end of the workshop, all of the accessory projects will be reviewed and have the potential to become part of the North Light Collection!

### DAY TWO: Focus on garments and all kinds of measurements

Island Activity

- Bird Banding and nature tour with the Ocean View Foundation. Experience what made Deborah Newton, Melissa Leapman and many other world famous knitwear designers smile with joy

Session 3: Learning about measurements

- Deborah will lead a discussion about measurements and understanding their importance to the designer and the design process

# A 4-Day Knitwear Design Workshop

## The Retreat Plan (continued)

- Learn to take, use and understand personal measurements
- Learn about “industry” measurements — the how and why for designers
- Explore and understand the concept of increments between sizes

### Session 4. Explore garment shapes in new ways

- Engage in an in-depth discussion about garment types, one of her favorite topics!
- Learn about the various kinds of garments, their characteristics
- Understand relationships between garment types and shared characteristics
- Learn to use non-knitted garments for inspiration
- How to choose the best measurements for a successful knitted garment

Evening: Free time for walking, swimming, knitting, shopping, questions, etc.

## **DAY THREE— Details and capturing the design**

### Session 5: Knitting in a focused way, with detail in mind

- Explore swatches in greater depth, using them as a way to test the details of your design
- Deborah will present and explore the “extras” that you can count on to create a unique look to your designs

### Session 6: Writing a pattern for your design

- Learn how to transfer your fabric and design ideas to “hard copy”
- Address pattern-writing concerns: sizing, schematic drawings, and charting
- Create a template for all aspects of your work that you can use in the future
- Address the concerns that are part of making a pattern to be sold to the public

### Evening Sharing: Drawing techniques for designers—optional and open

Deborah will present a simple class about drawing techniques and ways to present your ideas. Even if you have never drawn, you will enjoy this approach!

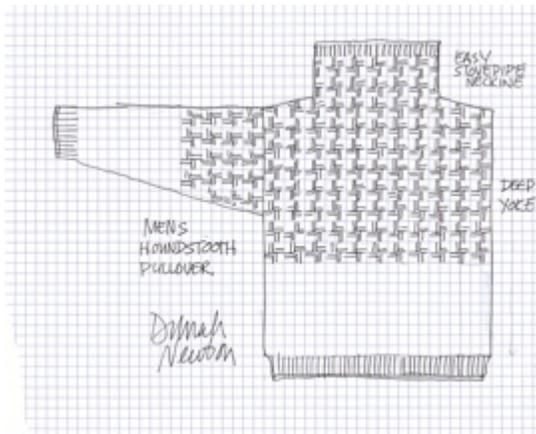
## **DAY FOUR – Pulling it all together!**

### Wrap up and Launching

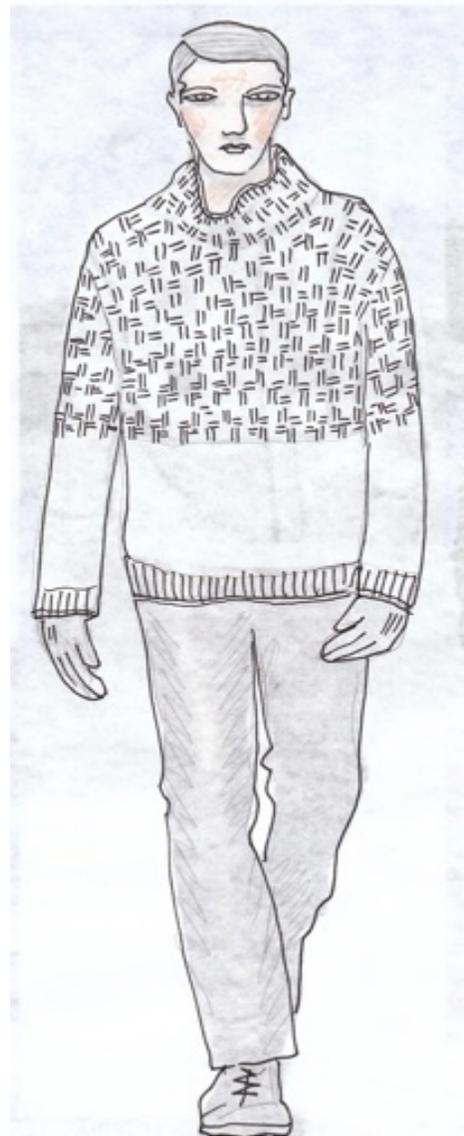
- Deborah will provide individual and customized suggestions to everyone about their work and how to proceed with future projects and how to push your limits - avoiding the mundane and the obvious, to create excitement and detail in your work
- Learn to critique your own work in a positive way
- How to take work to the next level—exploring favorite ideas in greater depth

# Join us on Block Island and change the way you think about your knitting and designing!

Let Deborah show you what works for her, and teach you new techniques that will help you visualize your ideas and bring them to completion!



We will have a special focus on the role of swatching in the design process and how swatches lead to and talk to the design.



# Block Island & North Light Fibers

Block Island is a beautiful destination with a Micro Yarn Mill, gorgeous beaches, great food, nature walks, and time to learn & relax. Inspirations are everywhere!



# “Knitwear Design Workshop” Retreat Details

**The 4-Day event is all-inclusive** - We take care of everything! All you need to do is to get to the ferry (Pt. Judith, RI) or the Westerly airport (10 minute flight). Once there, we take over with gourmet meals, beautiful inns, great rooms, fabulous activities, an amazing teacher, outstanding knitters, exotic animals and a Micro Yarn Mill. Please let us know of any allergies or special needs. Walking shoes are recommended so you can enjoy the whole island.



**Please call to discuss retreat pricing** – There are two types of rooms: ocean view premium and traditional. While each room is lovely, they vary and can be viewed on-line. Please contact Sven at North Light Fibers for

more information on rooms and accommodations. All rooms are based on single occupancy.

## **Yarn for homework and the event is supplied by North Light Fibers!**

Deborah will advise all the participants by email to be best prepared for the workshop, knitting with North Light Fibers’ yarn or yarns of your choice. North Light will provide yarn if you desire-- for the design workshop as well as the accessory aspect of the event. We will mail everything in advance so all you need to bring are needles and notions!



## **Space is limited so please sign up**

**early** - The retreat will be capped at 15 knitters/designers so please sign up soon. All cancellations must be made by April 1, 2017 for a partial refund and must be received in writing. No refunds will be issued after July 1, 2017. The retreat will close once capacity is reached.

Please direct correspondence to:  
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