

Materials guideline list

Thank you for your interest in [Soft Revolution – Fibre sculpture with Tina Marais](#). This guide offers some handy pre-registration advice to help you prepare for the course. Once enrolled, you'll receive a detailed materials list with images and supplier suggestions to make things simple. Remember – you don't need to find the exact materials Tina uses. What matters most is how you interpret and adapt what's available to you. Tina encourages you to experiment, use what you already have, and bring your own voice to the materials and how you choose to use them.

Essential tools and supplies:

- Scissors – sharp fabric shears and smaller thread snips
- Sewing pins
- Embroidery needles – sharp end
- Thread and cord
- Fabric – linen, silk, cotton, canvas, muslin
- Fibre fill (or old pillow stuffing)
- Rope or cord – various size
- Iron – large or travel size

Nice-to-have tools and supplies:

- Sewing machine (straight stitch – **see note**)
- Rotary cutter, quilting ruler and cutting mat
- Wrapped canvas panels (standard painters stretch canvas)
- Round wooden circle bases (from arts or craft supply store)
- Pattern drafting ruler
- Curved upholstery needles
- Staple gun
- Awl or tool to poke holes

Thread and cord options:

- Sewing thread (high quality)
- Upholstery thread
- Embroidery thread
- Crochet or Perle cotton
- Polypropylene rope

Note: a basic sewing machine with a straight stitch is used in about 30% of the course. It's not essential, but techniques like machine folds and layered distressing will be much more time-consuming by hand. Other elements, including sculpture bases, can be hand-stitched with extra time and patience. If you don't have a machine, we recommend borrowing or renting before buying. Many fabric shops, sewing machine retailers, and textile co-working spaces offer machine access. Any basic model with a straight stitch will do – no specialised features needed.

Fabric and fibre options:

- Materials in your stash that hold meaning, memory, unique texture or interest
- Soft fabrics – old clothes, pillowcases, scarves, linen, cotton, muslin or silk
- Transparent or semi-transparent fabrics like organza or tulle
- Four-way stretch fabric – transparent or opaque, such as mesh
- Thicker, more structured fabric (such as canvas, felt, denim, or upholstery scraps)
- Lightweight interfacing or iron-on stabiliser (optional, for firmness)
- Fabric to line the back of your wall mounted artworks

Extras and found materials:

- Cardboard, soft plastics, string, or foam
- Everyday objects that catch your eye – small, flexible, and safe to handle
- Pieces with interesting colour, texture, or personal meaning
- Objects or boxes to create armatures
- Foam balls and sheets
- Embellishments: beads, buttons, ribbon, paint and ink