

# ARTIST CAROLE WALKER

For 33 years I was a DT teacher in North London dreaming of doing something creative by the sea. NOW I DO!

BeachMutts is an artist's hut started as an studio for needle felting and to spread my love of dogs. It has expanded to incorporate textile sculpture, customised dogs coats and artist's protective wear and now my latest passion miniature unique teddy bears.

Beautiful handmade needle felted animals are made in different positions. The models usually have a wire armature to allow you to pose in different positions, such as begging for a treat or tweaking the head to add cuteness. These are not a toy but is a whimsical pieces of textile art. These little creatures take many hours to make. They can be large or small and make an unusual present. Needle felting is a modern twist on the ancient craft of felt making. It is the process of compressing and matting fibres together to create a 8 dense form and is one of the oldest known fibre crafts. Thousands of years ago our ancestors felted wool to create basic footwear, blankets, clothing and yurts. Wool fibres have tiny scales which interlock during the felting process. The craft of needle felting is extremely versatile. By gradually adding fibre and defining the shape through needling, 3D animals can be created entirely from wool fibres.

I am planning to run needle felting classes in the near future so please register your interest at hut 39.

