

TWINING



Paola Besana

Began weaving in 1958 after a trip to Sweden and Finland. She studied in the United States with L. Blumenau, T. Guermont, J. Lenor Larsen and in England with Ann Sutton. In 1968 she opened her studio in Milan, which was both a laboratory and a research, teaching and production centre. She is interested in the structural aspect of every kind of woven artifact, and she has travelled in Europe, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru (with Ed Franquemont) and Bolivia, where she was able to try her hand at several traditional weaving techniques and collect manufactures and ethnic looms.

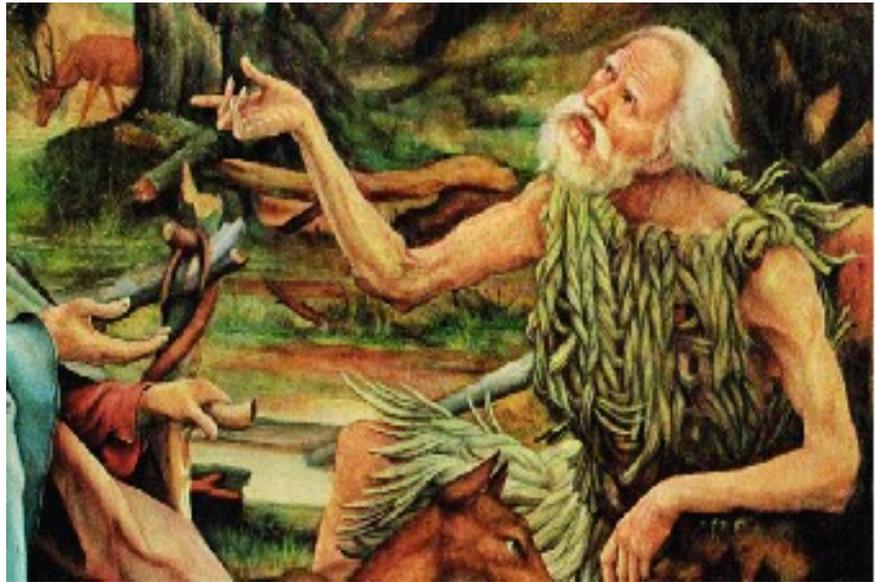
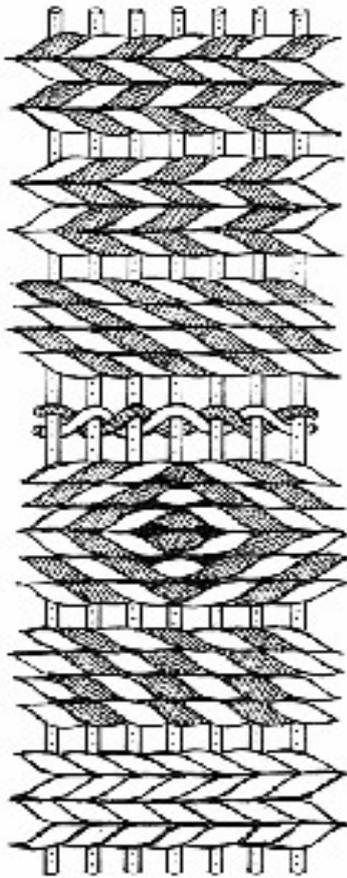
10-12 MAY, 2013

Twining is not a weaving technique, but rather the twisting of a pair of elements along a series of warp threads held taut and flat. In this course we will look into weft twining, but warp twining also exists.

Weft twining is an essentially manual technique, that doesn't require the use of any instrument. The same can be said of warp twining, with the exception of tablet weaving.

Twining is one of the oldest textile structures, it probably even came before weaving, since it requires no loom. Peru has some well-preserved archeological finds of considerable antiquity, the oldest dating from 2500 B.C.; other finds come from Anatolia and Persia. More recent examples of exquisite decoration are the Chilkat blankets in Alaska and the Maori *taniko* in New Zealand. Twining is still very much in use in present-day primitive societies. In French Guiana, it is used to make wide elastic circular bands in which babies are carried, and the Sahara nomadic tribes use it for their beautiful rugs. In England saddle girths are still made in twining, and all over the world twining is used in tapestry and rug weaving on vertical looms to spread out the warp.

The amount of spacing of the warp depends on the number of twists and the diameter of the yarn



The course begins on Friday May 10th, 2013 at 3.30pm with a general introduction and an examination of pictures and samples, and it ends on Sunday May 12th, at 12.30pm.

used in the weft. Different patterns are obtained by using ends of contrasting colours and by playing on the number and direction of the twists.

Because twining doesn't require a loom, it can be used with semi-rigid materials, to make baskets and sieves, as well as fences and roofs for sheds and cabins.

In this brief course you will devise simple looms on which to try different materials and patterns, inspect original artefacts and watch a series of slides on the subject.

Course fee	€ 200.00
Optional accommodation (in twin-bed rooms)	€ 30.00 per night
Meals	€ 15.00 per meal

Associazione Casa Clementina * via Italia, 6 * 13843 Pettinengo (BI) * +393483167306 * casaclementina@alice.it * www.casaclementina.net * fb: CASA CLEMENTINA