

## 'Fireside' Artist talks in Carp

West Carleton Arts Society Members free, Guests \$5

Wednesday September 17, 2014, 7:00 pm

St Paul's United Church, 3760 Carp Road

parking and entrance at the back

### Wendo Van Essen, artist

Over the past 30 years as I traveled in my career in animation, I gleaned an acute awareness of the tactile nature of textiles. As I moved around the world, I studied with a Korean embroidery master and a Thai batik spirit cloth maker, learned how to dye saris in Singapore and finally in Berlin I found the art of felt making.

My job in animation has been a large influence on my work. I like to create fun whimsical sculptures in wool. I use the technique called needle felting to poke and tease wool fibres in to place, whether it's a landscape or a 3 dimensional character. My latest foray in animation is to work on DreamWorks Kung fu Panda. I am also discovering the joys of lampwork beading. Who knows where I'll end up!

Felt is a fabric made from animal fibres, usually wool, which have been arranged in layers and then subjected to moisture and pressure. Each wool fibre has scales protruding from the fibre...somewhat like Velcro hooks in miniature. When these fibres are wet and pressure is applied to them they will interlock and become matted together. The longer the process of motion and pressure is continued the more dense the felt becomes. Felt can be made thin and flexible by laying out less layers or thick and dense by working many layers of wool for a prolonged period of time. It can be made flat, textured, three-dimensional or into hollow shapes. The possibilities are endless.



for more information see [www.westcarletonartssociety.ca](http://www.westcarletonartssociety.ca)