

## **Sindy and her sewing**

Sindy began to sew aged 7. She is from a creative and sewing family. She was taught and encouraged by her mother and grandmother who were from Mauritius. In Mauritius Sindy said a cousin showed his paintings in an exhibition and he is known there for his painting. One of the first things she made was a dress for her Sindy doll out of white curtain lace. She painted a T-shirt with a red love heart at the Newham fair and made hairbands.

**Sindy's mother made her clothes** - she remembers a red velvet dress and a blue one. Her grandmother also made clothes and her mother also made a Cleopatra crown.

As a teenager she made a 1980s bolero jacket. When she left school Sindy went for dress making a sewing classes at a community centre on East Ham High Street North but did not get on with the teacher; overall it was not a positive experience, but she did learn a lot including smocking.

From there she went to Newham College to study Fashion but was never allowed to progress from Level 1 though she did Level 1 twice. Still they would not allow her to enter the Level 2 Fashion course and her work was never in any end of year exhibitions. The teacher was not positive or encouraging about her work, though she remained at Newham College for many years. It was an extremely negative experience.

She came to ELTA via East Ham library embroidery class. Sonia was a different kind of teacher - calm, collected, encouraging, and kind, and here she could blossom, learning many things including kantha stitching, increasingly fine embroidery, learning to plan lessons, and team work,

She has enjoyed the ELTA trips - the best of which was to the oriental exhibition at the British Museum. She enjoyed trips to the Art Workers Guild where her confidence was boosted by the positive feedback from professional craftspeople about her work. Both her mother and her brother came to see her working at Tate Modern with Sonia and other ELTA ladies.

ELTA is different from other textile courses because it offers adventure.

She hopes in the future she might develop her Mondrian animals work and make a fashion show from more designs made on this theme.

Her family are very proud about her embroidery and textile work.