

# COCHENILLE NEW MEXICO RETREAT 2026

AUGUST 21ST - 25TH, 2026  
CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO

## FROM FABRIC/YARN TO GARMENT FOR SEWERS, WEAVERS, YARN ART (KNIT & CROCHET)

Cost: \$420.00

We are continuing our tradition of truly retreating in an amazing location and spending focused time with Garment Designer software for pattern making. So, we return to Cimarron, New Mexico and the 100+ year-old inn we have grown to love.

This year our theme is called '**From Fabric/Yarn to Garment**'. The focus of the retreat is to walk you through the design process of translating your chosen fabrics or yarns to a garment (and pattern) that suits the fabric and your figure. Then you will move on to creating that design in Garment Designer pattern software. Students will be asked to bring two to four different fabrics or yarn swatches, each with a different hand and weight. These can be commercial fabrics, handwoven, hand knit, machine knit or crochet swatches.

### From Fabric through the Design Process to Pattern

We will begin with an overview of fabrics and the role they play in your design. Susan will have samples for you to see and touch, and together we will determine how those fabrics are going to play a role in decisions made for garment design and Garment Designer pattern work.

After a brief figure analysis exercise, you will combine those results with the knowledge you gained from the fabric exercise and begin to plan the perfect garment. Students will choose an inspiration (from online or other), and using their personal measurements, sketch and plan a garment. The last step will be to build the pattern in Garment Designer and print the pattern results.

You will repeat the process for a second garment using a different fabric. In addition, you will learn how to modify a pattern you have created for a one fabric to work with a different type of fabric that has its own unique characteristic.

The skills you learn in this workshop will serve you well for future projects. You will be better equipped to know how your fabric plays a role in the styles you choose. You will also be more familiar with the process one goes through in garment and pattern development.

You will love learning more about the abilities of Garment Designer. In addition to the hands-on workshop, moving from project to project, there will be lots of talk on design, creativity, etc. You will be free to work into the wee hours of the night, as we have taken over an area of the Inn. We do take a partial day to explore the city of Taos for its fashion, fabric and yarn. There is lots of inspiration there.



COCHENILLE DESIGN STUDIO

Plan to arrive on Friday, August 21st by dinner time. We will work a full day on Saturday. On Sunday, we will take a trip to Taos for part of the day for inspiration. On Monday, we will work another full day and can continue to work until mid-day on Tuesday. You have the option to work into the evenings as well.

### INSTRUCTOR: SUSAN LAZEAR

Susan Lazear is the owner and Creative Director of Cochenille Design Studio. As a Professor of Fashion, Susan taught at San Diego Mesa College for many years in the areas of design, textiles, and computer, & pattern making courses.

### To Be Covered in the Workshop

- Online meeting in early late July or early August to discuss the projects and address any questions
- Fabric Analysis and the role fabric plays in garment development
- Figure Analysis and the role this plays in planning styles of garments
- Inspiration: Images and Resources
- The Design Process
- The steps that lead to successful pattern design
- Converting a pattern for a different fabric
- Tips for using Garment Designer

*Computer:* Please bring a portable computer with Garment Designer installed (or we can install the software for you if you don't yet own the software and want to test drive it).

*Supplies :* You may bring fabric samples, yarns/swatches and test fabrics if you want to cut and experiment. We cannot guarantee a sewing machine (possibly someone driving will bring one), but we can still cut, baste, and pin fit. A full supply list will be sent in early August.

**Cost:** \$420.00 for Garment Designer Workshop and online meeting and free Planning Workshops. This includes: Webinar, Tuition, and Handouts. Instruction will be given 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22nd through Monday, August 24th, and 8:30 a.m. to mid-day on Tuesday, August 25th.

### Not Included:

- **Travel:** airfare, travel to and from Santa Fe/Albuquerque/Denver, and the Inn in Cimarron. We will assist with **car pools** for those who want to do that.
- **Accommodation** for four nights at the Inn. Plan to arrive to the Inn on Friday, August 21st by dinner time and leave on Tuesday, mid-day (the 25th).
- Meals (except breakfast for those who stay at the Casa)
- Note: Once the group is established, we can decide jointly, how to handle the dinners. In past, we had dinner in Cimarron twice and cooked our own at the Inn once, plus a meal in Taos.

### Notes:

- In order to 'take over' the Inn for our workshop, we must fill all the rooms. Please hold off booking flights until we know we have enough people to fill the Inn, and thus make the workshop a 'go'.
- Casa del Gavilan has six rooms (the Guest House can be treated as 2 rooms with a shared bathroom). We will take reservations for rooms at the Casa Inn based on the order of registration and we encourage room-sharing. Upon reservation, you are committing to four nights at the Inn.
- Casa del Gavilan rooms must be booked through Cochenille. Please contact Susan for information on which rooms are still available ([info@cochenille.com](mailto:info@cochenille.com)). Let her know if you would be willing to room-mate, as this is sometimes possible as there is a second bed. You may look at the Inn by going to [www.casadelgavilan.com](http://www.casadelgavilan.com). If we fill the Inn, we will assist you in locating other housing in Cimarron.