

# experience

**Steven Harkin London**  
Victorian Government • ISS Institute Design Fellow

**Our life on the move** • a bag holds the essentials for the day • for work or leisure

- keys, computer, mobile, note book and pen, mobile, ipod, makeup, designer's visuals, sunblock, food, reports, glasses, plans, umbrella • and even .....

"I work continually towards creating bags, attache cases and briefcases that are distinctive, classic and contemporary, of the highest standards in quality, and break new ground in development of materials and techniques in anodised aluminium, MDF, acrylic, laminex and rubber and, of course, leather.

**masterclass  
workshop**

# experience



## Major Sponsor

**Victorian Government**  
ISS Institute/Victorian  
Government (Design)



Department of  
**Education & Training**

## Masterclass Workshop Sponsors

**Kangan Batman TAFE**  
85 Cremorne Street  
Richmond  
www.kangan.edu.au  
Venue  
Equipment and Materials



**Kangan Batman TAFE**

**NSW Leather Co.**  
107 – 109 Sackville St  
Collingwood  
www.nswleather.com  
Leather



NSW Leather Co.

*Photos courtesy Craft ACT*

# essential bags masterclass workshop

## Steven Harkin London

Victorian Government ISS Institute Design Fellow



International  
Specialised  
Skills Institute

Since 1990, the ISS Institute, an independent, national, innovative organisation, has provided opportunities for Australian industry and commerce, learning institutions and public authorities to gain best-in-the-world skills and experience in design, innovation, traditional and leading-edge technologies and management.

Our operations are directed towards bringing design, knowledge, traditional and leading-edge technologies to Australian business - new ways of thinking, new ways of producing for the local and global marketplace.

A bag is an optional extra changing the outline of a body. It holds items, has a private interior and a definitive exterior and is essentially an extension of the body that gets taken up and detached throughout the day. For the past two decades the bag has been the focus of designer Steven Harkin.

The bag offers Harkin a format into which he can invest a range of ideas. Harkin draws from a range of ideas regarding, automotive design and fashion to inform his work. Italian automotive design, in particular the Ferrari Modena 360 as well as the Alpha Romeo has a direct relationship with the works 'Jo' and 'Nic' respectively in how they are detailed and finished. A strong feature of Harkin's designs is the celebration of the materials that he works into each design, and how he brings these materials together. Leather, anodised aluminium, pigskin, synthetic linings, perspex and kangaroo lining are all part of his repertoire. In each case, Harkin's great strength lies in the assemblage and finishing of many parts, resulting in one resolved work.

From 2000-2003 Harkin was based in Torino, Italy, designing, prototyping and producing a range of high quality bags for sale in Italy, Greece, New Zealand and Australia. Italy was an ideal choice for Harkin as it is revered for expertise and skill in leather and design. Compared to his experience in Australia, the availability of studio space in Italy was limited and this steered Harkin in the direction of developing streamlined processes in relation to finishing and making his bags. Consequently, Harkin's work became focused on small production runs based on simple and effective systems.

Harkin now teaches at London College of Fashion and as a result he experienced fashion in both a teaching environment and in his own studio based practice. Observations gained from teaching include an understanding of the varying degrees of expertise, quality, and motivation that arise in an educational institution and how to blend the differences between an academic view of fashion and the fashion industry itself. Different cultures and environments demonstrate how change can be incorporated into an individual style during the process.

[www.stevenharkin.com](http://www.stevenharkin.com)

Extracts from Jas Hugonnet  
Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre

skills + knowledge + good design + innovation + communication = competitive edge • good business

# experience



## Endorsement

### Design Institute of Australia

[www.dia.org.au](http://www.dia.org.au)

Professional development points are available



Design Institute of Australia

### Craft Victoria

[www.craftvictoria.org.au](http://www.craftvictoria.org.au)



### Craft ACT

Craft and Design Centre  
[www.craftact.org.au](http://www.craftact.org.au)



## Acknowledgement

ISS Institute would like to thank the following for their generous input and support in developing the project for this workshop.

- Nicola Cerini  
[www.nicolacerini.com](http://www.nicolacerini.com)
- Sarah Conners  
[www.sarahconners.com.au](http://www.sarahconners.com.au)
- Mark Bayly  
Bayly Design Associates P/L  
[www.baylydesign.com.au](http://www.baylydesign.com.au)

# essential bags masterclass workshop

Suitable for those who want to explore design and innovation.

- Fashion and textile designers
- Industrial and product designers
- Crafts people
- Manufacturers
- Educationalists
- Those who enjoy the challenge of working with different materials to produce niche products

## Design a ...

The hands-on project has been designed to take participants from concept to creating a bag suitable for manufacture encompassing design, pattern making, construction techniques and materials.

The whole process is to take into consideration • life style • function • client profile • environmental issues eg recycling • maintenance/care • price point.

Choose to create either:

- Business bag/case/portfolio**  
- define the client profile, or
- Day/handbag**  
- define the client profile.

Participants are to produce roughs and working drawings, which depict the bag's visual attributes, then to make a prototype of the bag suitable for manufacture.

Explore colour, textures, surface, scale, materials, closing devices ....

## Format

The workshop program comprises lectures, demonstrations, group and individual discussion and a hands-on project. Participants will work in teams of two people.

## Materials

The materials have been selected to cross international boundaries and use elements that are readily available.

Each team will be provided with leather and have available in various forms • Metal • Plastics • to use as decorative or functional elements.

# experience

## Who can you engage to help you?

Australia, arguably, has more creative talent per head of population than any other nation and we have a wealth of natural and manufactured resources compared to our overseas competitors.

Yet, in the main, we do not turn that into an economic return. Imports continue to grow. What has to change?

A crucial factor is the way we work - designers take their concept and make 'it'; manufacturers/trades take their production facilities and make 'it'. Each separate - not communicating, not valuing and respecting what the other can contribute, therein their livelihood may be diminished and, in turn, the Australian economy loses to imports. For many designers/creative people they must find other work to pay the bills such as waitressing, working in retail or teaching. Precious time taken from the design studio where they could be developing their talent.

**So what can we learn from those whose imports are taking the market Australian designers and manufacturers should have?**

In Europe design/production teams are formed whereby designers and manufacturers work together in collaboration. Each brings their particular expertise to the project - more skills, more knowledge, more experience and insights than working in isolation.

In this way designers are able to move across disciplines and materials. For example an industrial or graphic designer can work in fashion, and manufacturers can use design as added value to their products.

This workshop provides a unique opportunity to experience working in the style of a European model - in a team that is focused on nurturing creative excellence, using materials innovatively and ensuring financial viability.

Take the challenge to explore a different way of working that may just open pathways to realising your talent and markets.

# essential bags masterclass workshop

## Think Differently...

Designers can cross into different fields - architects, industrial, graphic and interior designers into fashion and vice versa.

Take Daniela Puppa and Gelsomina Petti, both Italian architects now fashion designers, they draw inspiration from other ways of seeing their world - space, scale, texture, materials come together in new forms - bags. For them, inspiration is drawn from the world around them.

For Petti, the ability to see things differently can pay off. At the famous Anne Klein design studio, NY, she is the only handbag designer and, therein, is sold around the world adding value to the Anne Klein brand - collaboration works.

A bag is an object which can be used to carry 'things', sit on, use as a table or make a statement about who we are or want to be.

Visit <http://www.styledrops.com/prada-handbags.html> see what others are creating, then make your own mark in the **essential bags masterclass workshop**.

## Venue

Kangan Batman TAFE  
Richmond Campus  
Building D  
85 Cremorne Street  
Richmond

Free on site parking will be available subject to availability.

Richmond's central location means excellent access to established public transport networks that includes trams, trains and buses.

## Date•Time

Register for either workshop.

### WORKSHOP 1

Friday 28 April 2006, 9.30am to 5pm  
Saturday 29 April 2006, 9.30am to 5pm

or

### WORKSHOP 2

Friday 5 May 2006, 9.30am to 5pm  
Saturday 6 May 2006, 9.30am to 5pm

## Fee

The fee includes tuition, leather and other materials, use of equipment, course notes, morning and afternoon refreshments - \$440 incl. GST. The fee is subsidised by ISS Institute.

**Early Bird** rate is \$380 incl. GST for those who Register and pay prior to 13th April 2006.

**Lunch** Pack your own lunch box full of tasty treats to enjoy on the day, so as to immerse yourself in 'essential bags' experience - share ideas, techniques and insights with your masterclass workshop colleagues.

## Registration Form

I am registering for: [tick your choice please]

**WORKSHOP 1** Fri 28 April and Sat 29 April 2006 or

**WORKSHOP 2** Fri 5 May and Sat 6 May 2006

### Post, email or fax to:

ISS Institute  
Suite 101,685 Burke Road, Camberwell 3124 Victoria  
T 03 9882 0055 F 03 9882 9866 E [issi.ceo@pacific.net.au](mailto:issi.ceo@pacific.net.au)

### Masterclass Workshop Fee

\$440 incl. GST.

**Early Bird** \$380 incl. GST for those who Register and pay prior to 13th April 2006.

### Payment Method:

- Cash (Pay directly at ISS office or by arrangement)  
 Cheque (Make payable to 'ISS Institute')  
 Postal Order (Make payable to 'ISS Institute')  
 Credit Card (Diners and American Express are not accepted)  
 Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number - - - - -

Expiry Date \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete the Registration Form and post, email or fax back.

You are welcome to forward on to others who would also be interested in attending.

**Design Institute of Australia** Professional development points are available

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Work/Home \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Conditions of Registration

I hereby agree to abide by the regulations of the ISS Institute

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrolment • Entry Requirements** In general no formal entrance requirements are necessary.

**• Conditions of Registration** Complete the registration form attached. Enrolment can be made by email, post or fax. Cash must be paid at the ISS office - do not mail. An email or fax of confirmation will be sent after full payment of fee. Note: A position in the workshop will not be reserved without payment being received by this office. Enrolment is on a firstcome- first-served basis based on time of receipt of fees. If you have not received an email or fax of confirmation, please contact the ISS Institute office on 9882 0055 to find out the status of your application. Do not assume that because you have sent an application you are automatically enrolled in the workshop

**• Refunds** Please check your enrolment carefully. We regret that a refund will only be given if the workshop does not proceed  
**• Cancellation** ISS Institute reserves the right to cancel the course if minimum enrolment numbers are not attained. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient enrolments or other, all fees will be fully refunded. Two or more working days notice will be given should the course be cancelled  
**• Disclaimer** ISS Institute reserves the right to amend or cancel any or all sessions listed herein without notice or prejudice. ISS Institute takes reasonable steps to obtain and give information about the workshop from appropriate sources, including materials used and the safety of the environment, but accepts no responsibility for inadequate or incorrect information given to it, or in the course notes, by the workshop presenter, supplier of materials or other third party  
**• Privacy** ISS Institute may photograph or video record workshop participants activities for use in promotion of the work of ISS Institute. Please let us know if you object to use of pictures of yourself in this way.

March 2006