

# The Complete Yoke Sweater Workshop

With Kristin Drysdale

June 4 – June 6, 2023

3 days, 2 nights



Hosted by North Light Fibers on Block Island



North Light Fibers – PO Box 1382, Block Island, RI 02807 – [www.northlightfibers.com](http://www.northlightfibers.com)  
401-466-2050 – [Sven@northlightfibers.com](mailto:Sven@northlightfibers.com)

# Kristin Drysdale

Kristin Drysdale (@Scandiwork) is an internationally renowned expert in Scandinavian colorwork and author of the Amazon bestselling knitting book *The Nordic Knitting Primer*. Inspired by her Scandinavian heritage, she is a master of Norwegian, Swedish, and Icelandic knitting design, technique, history, and symbolism. She spent many years abroad gathering techniques in knitting circles from Norway to Austria, and has taught sold-out knitting workshops across America, Canada and Europe.

Kristin has designed for over 25 years with patterns published in *Laine Magazine*, *Brown Sheep Wool Company*, *Harrisville Designs* and *Knitters Magazine*. Her lovely vintage cardigans, Marit and Sørensdatter, in *Laine Magazine* issues 7 and 12, are currently on the needles of knitters all over the world. Kristin specializes in continental knitting, colorwork, and how to make sweaters that fit. Her goal is to help knitters everywhere become independent and confident makers. She believes anyone, anywhere can learn to create heirloom garments that are beautiful both inside and out.

Kristin is a special teacher with the gift of being able to transfer her knowledge to others. She loves to share tips and tricks gleaned from a lifetime of Scandinavian knitting.



# The Workshop

This workshop is for everyone. If you can knit and purl, you can take this class. If you are a proficient knitter, you will learn tricks improve your colorwork skills and learn to alter patterns make a unique version of a sweater that will fit you perfectly.

We will be working on a DK Top Down- Yoke Sweater Design especially for this class with North Lights Fiber yarn. This sweater can be made with either Water Street or Seaside yarn. This yoke sweater can be made with short ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length, bracelet or long sleeves and can be knit as a pullover or a cardigan. The length of the sweater also is up to you.



We will talk about all versions of yoke sweaters and why designers choose to design bottom-up or top down, and the advantages of both methods. I will design a top-down yoke for this class so that we can jump right into the colorwork in class. The class will focus on gauge, ease and fit and how to make alternations to a pattern so that you tailor the fit for you. We will work on Continental knitting (picking) English knitting (throwing). We will focus on gauge magic, and how to make gauge work for you. You will learn that gauge is your friend and sweater math is a superpower that will make you a better knitter, and it will empower you to make garments that fit. We will learn all about stitch and row gauge and what this means for colorwork knitting and how you can make this knowledge work for you. We will also learn how to convert a pullover to a cardigan (just



in case you'd rather make a cardigan). I will teach you how to work invisible increases. I will teach Continental purling (my favorite way), and when and where to add short rows (my favorite way). Of course, we will be casting on (and learn how to estimate how much yarn to use for a long-tail cast on. Together we'll knit the ribbing on the neckband (and learn tricks to improve your ribbing, so that you are thrilled with the outcome from the start).

We will also be working on colorwork techniques like catching floats with the main color and the contrasting color, yarn dominance , troubleshooting stitch and row gauge, holding the yarn with one color in each hand (or two in the left hand), steam blocking, weaving yarn in and out.



# The Approach

My Complete Yoke Workshop will focus on colorwork and all my tips and tricks for making beautiful fabric. I will teach you how to carry the yarn with one color in each hand, and / or carrying two colors in one hand. I will teach you lots of options. You will learn everything you ever wanted to know about catching floats (while carrying the yarn different ways). You'll learn when and where to catch floats, how to catch floats with the main color and the contrasting color, and even why catching floats is necessary. We will talk about yarn dominance and why this is important, and how this will make your colorwork knitting more beautiful.

You will learn how to switch yarn dominance when needed without dropping the yarn, for switching hands. I will teach you how and when to fix colorwork mistakes without having to rip out your work and when it's necessary how to take out a row or more and start over without dropping stitches. We will continue to talk about how to convert a pullover pattern to a cardigan, and what that means for colorwork yoke patterns. We will talk about how to add a steak, and give you all the tools to cutting a steak with confidence. We will even practice cutting a steak, so you will be confident to do it on your own.



Finally, we will be finishing up the yoke, making sure it fits you, dividing the yoke stitches just at the right point so this sweater will fit you beautifully. We will get you started on the sleeves and the body, finishing the underarm perfectly without holes or stress points. I will introduce you my favorite way to block (which you are going to love) and we will wind up the class with finishing techniques to make your sweater beautiful inside and out. The goal here is to complete the sweater yoke in this class. But if you don't, no worries, there is still so much to learn and do in this class, and at the end of the class you will be ready to carry-on on your own. My hope is that the sweater you make in this class will be the perfect sweater for you. I can't wait!



# The Workshop Schedule (Tentative)

## Sunday – June 4

- Arrive on a morning ferry (Please contact us if you want to come in early)
- Check into Hotel – Drop off luggage
- Workshop I: 1- 4pm
  - Planning the Perfect Sweater: Colorwork skills, fit, ease, understanding gauge and how it affects colorwork. Choosing whether to knit a pullover or cardigan, with or without short rows, long or short sleeves. Casting on the perfect sweater for you, and beginning colorwork.
- Store Hours: Open to 5pm
- Wine & Nibbles – 4:30
- Gourmet Dinner

## Monday – June 5

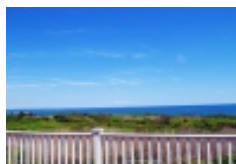
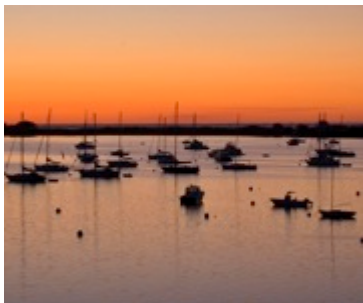
- Bird Banding (subject to weather)
- Breakfast
- Store Hours: 10:00 – 5:00
- Workshop II: 9-1
  - Planning the Perfect Sweater for you: Colorwork skills, fit, ease, understanding gauge and how it affects colorwork. Choosing whether to knit a pullover or cardigan, with or without short rows, long or short sleeves.
  - Working on colorwork techniques such as catching floats with the main color and the contrasting color, yarn dominance, troubleshooting stitch and row gauge, holding the yarn with one color in each hand (or two in the left hand), steam blocking, weaving yarn in and out.
- Lunch
- Island Activities – 3-5pm
  - Nature walk with The Nature Conservancy, SE lighthouse tour, etc.
  - Explore the island, shop downtown, rent a bike
  - Relax, knit, shop, enjoy
- Wine & Nibbles
- Gourmet Dinner

## Tuesday – June 6

- Breakfast
- Store Hours: 10:00 – 4:00
- Workshop IV 9:00 – 12:00
  - Finishing Strong; completing the yoke and setting up to finish your sweater beautifully inside and out. This final class covers picking up stitches for the sleeves, finishing techniques and even a steeking crash course and demo.
- Lunch
- Free afternoon
- Depart on the ferry or stay an extra night:
  - Current schedule: 3pm or 5pm

# The Island Awaits You

Block Island is a beautiful destination with a Micro Yarn Mill, gorgeous beaches, great food, nature walks, and time to learn & relax. Inspirations are everywhere!



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# 2023 Block Island Knitting Retreat With Kristin Drysdale - Details

The 3-day/2-night event is all-inclusive –we take care of everything! All you need to do is to get to the ferry (Pt. Judith, RI). Once there, we coordinate all delicious meals, great rooms, special island activities, tours, etc. Oh, and yes, a fantastic knitting workshop!

There will be a maximum of 15 knitters in the workshop and all the hotel rooms are around the 1661 and mill. You are able to place your reservation on our website – included are links to the rooms via the 1661 hotel and you can directly reserve the room you want! We have three tiers of retreat packages:

- Adrian Room: \$2,375 – all inclusive
- Luxury Rooms: \$2,225 – all inclusive
- Premium Rooms: \$1,550 – all inclusive
- Companions: \$500 – all inclusive

Call with questions but the Luxury rooms have ocean views and other amenities like a deck and extra space. The premium rooms are large and lovely, just not an ocean view. All rooms are on the 1661 property.



**What to bring/wear** – Block Island is a very relaxed and informal destination. We recommend bringing walking shoes and attire for enjoying the trails, beaches and farm. And you will walk through the exotic animals (ever pat a yak or alpaca) to get to the mill and workshop!

**Yarn for preparation work is supplied by North Light Fibers!** We will mail everything in advance so all you need to bring are needles and notions!

**Companions are encouraged** - We usually have 4-5+ non-knitters join the retreat which is a lot of fun as they participate in all the activities, tours and meals.

**Health and Safety** – It has been great to get everyone back and we are thrilled for 2023. To ensure a healthy environment and reduce anxiety, we are requiring that all attendees be vaccinated and be ready to follow the CDC/State/North Light Fibers' guidelines. We do not anticipate any unique conditions and we thank you for your understanding.

**Space is limited** so please sign up early - The retreat will be capped to have 15 knitters and reservations are accepted on a first come – first served basis. All cancellations must be made by February 1, 2023 for a partial refund and must be received in writing. No refunds will be issued after March 1, 2023.

**Travel.** Please plan to arrive on the island early Sunday as the workshops begin that day.

Please direct correspondence to: Sven Risom at [sven@northlightfibers.com](mailto:sven@northlightfibers.com)

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