New Media Workshops
Smart Materials & Wearable Design

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2 Myer’s Media
Workshops with
Sibel Deren Guler

April 3 and 24, 2014
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
No Prerequisites · RSVP
mediaartstudio@tc.edu

Macy 447
Teachers College,
Columbia University

Adding new materials and techniques to your repertoire is inspiring and exciting. Not only does it make us more resourceful, it can be fun and educational! Invent-abling is a project devoted to teaching people how to work with smart materials and electronics in unconventional ways. The goal is to enable them to create new interactions through craft and design. The project shares the sentiment of the recent maker movement, to empower non-experts to tinker with "expert tools".

In this workshop series you will first create a personal guide to a set of materials and electronics that can be interfaced together through craft techniques such as sewing and paper folding. You will then design a "smart object" that can be prototyped using these materials. We will follow a simple design process to sketch and create these designs using the tools and materials provided. You will learn about science, design, electronics, while collecting new materials and crafting techniques to incorporate in your next project!

Deren Guler is a physicist, designer and educator based in New York. She is interested in researching and developing technology that uses interactivity and computation to explore nature from a playful and sustainable approach. Designing accessible tools, particularly to improve the quality of life, is her key motivator.

She has led community based interactive projects and workshops around the world to diverse audiences of all ages. Her work includes ReplayMyPlay, an energy-harvesting merry-go-round exhibit that was installed at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. In Float Beijing she designed color-changing air quality boards that were mounted on to kites to create a public display of the pollution level. She and her collaborator launched the project in Beijing, China in the summer of 2012 where Guler taught local residents how to solder and assemble their own AQ boards. With Invent-abling, she is working to create construction kits that expose children to an assortment of smart materials and electronic components to spark curiosity in design and science.