

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6693 ENAMELLING FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: SHEILA R MCDONALD

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 20 JANUARY – SUNDAY 22 JANUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The aims of this course are to introduce enamelling skills to beginners and to show how colour, texture and coloured ideas can be translated into enamels.

Starting with a series of basic test pieces on copper, simple techniques are covered. You should then move on to working on small silver or copper items and by the end of the course produce a small simple item of jewellery.

This is a fine enamelling course and we cover the washing and grinding of enamels in preparation for wet packing. This allows much more scope for controlled and detailed work. We also work with fine wires and gold and silver leaf. I will provide a variety of enamel samples which should encourage you to experiment.

Those with no experience of enamelling follow small steps with copper samples. If you have had some experience then you are encouraged to incorporate some of the other techniques into your samples. You are encouraged to bring examples of your own work as a starting point to discuss ideas.

Day 1: Test pieces, covering basic skills.

Day 2: Further samples and beginning to work on special ideas.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Sheila R McDonald is a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and the Royal College of Art. She works as a freelance jeweller and enameller, undertakes commissions and exhibits widely.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 20 January

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. The first evening includes a health and safety talk followed by a demonstration of preparation and firing of enamels. We also discuss the aims of the course and make preparations for a good start the following morning.

Other days: Saturday 21 January

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch

Other days continued: Saturday 21 January

2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 22 January

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

The tutor will be happy to discuss the course with you beforehand. Her number is 01953 717625.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Included in the course fee for this course: enamels used by the group as a whole.

Sheila provides small colour fabric samples which should give you inspiration for test pieces.

Available from the Shop:

Copper sheet 1.2mm
Silver sheet 1.0mm
Fine paint brushes
Drawing materials
Cutting tools

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Apron/overall
Small glass/plastic containers, to contain wet enamel
Scissors, cutting tools
Fine tweezers/pliers
Any jewellery tools (a kit of basic tools may also be hired from the shop)
Any enamels you may already have

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. Students should note that the kilns must not be used in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.