

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

3D6704 SCULPTURAL ANIMAL FORMS IN WILLOW

Tutor: DOMINIC PARRETTE

Dates: 3 DAYS SUNDAY 29 JANUARY – WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

On this course you learn to how to look at drawings and photographs of animals and learn how to translate these into life-sized, three-dimensional animal forms using willow. Suitable animals are: a cockerel/chicken, sheep, fox, deer or pig, but alternatives may be chosen after discussion with the tutor.

You will learn to look at structure, tension and form to express meaning and animation as you construct and weave your animal. Cable ties will be used to construct the 'skeleton', hence there will be no metal formers used. There will be discussion on how to use and manipulate willow – including selecting willow from the varieties available and soaking prior to use.

The tutor will give many demonstrations on the making process and also plenty of individual tuition as work continues. He will also bring full sized examples of each animal – cockerel/chicken, sheep, fox, deer or pig, as a visual guidance.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Dominic Parrette is a coppice craftsman, experienced basketmaker and tutor specialising in willow garden structures and frame basketry. He also works with The Truggery, Herstmonceux. He trained in Countryside Recreation and teaches many rural crafts. Much of the willow used in his work and on courses is grown on his willow beds in Sussex.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 29 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 tutor will discuss the tools, willow and animals and students will make their choice ready for the next day. This allows willow appropriate for each selection to be soaked overnight and made ready. We will also start to make some willow structures.

Other days: Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 January

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue

Other days continued: Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 January

5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: The workshop is open until 10pm – students may work untutored if they wish. There will be some unstructured teaching on one evening.

Departure day: Wednesday 1 February

(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

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Day 1	Construction of the skeleton – body, legs and head
Day 2	Adding the 'flesh on the bones' i.e. weaving the willow
Day 3	Finishing touches – tail, coat, nose and hooves

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Source or make photographs and drawings of your chosen animal (from the advised list) especially if you want to make a specific breed of one of the farm animals. You may also bring images of other animal if you prefer to make a different species, but this must be discussed and agreed with the tutor as to its suitability to make on the course. If you have any queries, please contact the college.

The tutor will bring many tools for you to share between you. Please do not buy anything especially for the course, but please bring any of the items listed below if you already have them.

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.

Materials included in the course fee:

The cost of the willow rods and cable ties to make one animal is included in the course fee. However, if you make more, an additional charge will be made by the College Shop.

Available from the Shop:

Masking tape
Bodkins
Vaseline
Willow
Japanese side cutters
Stanley knife

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

Photos and drawing of any of the four animals listed (sheep, fox, deer or pig) – this is essential
Sharp gardening secateurs*
Thin-nosed pliers
Vaseline (for the willow)
Hand cream (for you)

Please bring continued:

Tape measure

Old large towel(s) (to wrap the willow)

A Stanley knife

A few coloured clothes pegs

An apron if you wish to keep clean

A camera if you wish to record the process

Covered footwear to wear in the workshop – this is an essential health and safety requirement

*Secateurs may be purchased from West Dean Gardens Shop

Available from the tutor:

Please don't go searching for any of the above items. The tutor will bring extra tools to borrow and willow work is really very low-tech – which is its great joy!

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.