

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6934 TAXIDERMY FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: ROSE ROBSON

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 28 APRIL – SUNDAY 30 APRIL

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Derived from the Greek words: *Taxis* – order, arrangement, preparation; and *derma* – skin; taxidermy is the arrangement of skin, the practice of skinning and preserving the skins of animals.

Throughout this course you will be taught traditional taxidermy techniques from artist and taxidermist Rose Robson. From the first incision to the final stitch you will learn how to skin and deflesh a bird using the appropriate tools and techniques required. You will be shown cleaning and preservation methods using only borax, a cleaning substitute.

Studying the anatomy of the bird, you will learn how to reconstruct your own form made out of wood wool and thread. Taxidermy requires an understanding of the behaviours and anatomical adaptations of the animal, you will be shown how to fictionalise and animate the bird by creating poses inspired by natural history books and images of birds.

All birds used have been shot by gamekeepers for their meat or they are considered pests. You will be working with the bird skins that are considered a waste product. Rose works seasonally which dictates what you will be working on during the course.

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:

Featured in *The Independent*, *AnOther Magazine* and *SHOWstudio* Rose's unconventional taxidermy has gained significant notice since graduating in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins in 2012. Drawing inspiration from natural history, Rose creates swarm like sculptures from a range of different bird skins. Reshaping and distilling them beyond a literal depiction toward a much more expressive end. Rose lives in London and is currently exhibiting at Kasher Potamkin in New York.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 28 April

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.

Other days: Saturday 29 April

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

Other days continued: Saturday 29 April

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

Departure day: Sunday 30 April

(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

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.

The course fee includes the cost of providing all materials shared amongst the group including; bird skins, scalpels, tweezers, scissors, pliers, galvanised wire, wood wool, cotton, thread, potato flour, borax, non-firing clay and glass eyes.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor will instruct students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Please note that tutor supervision is required at all times when students work in this workshop. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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