

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

5D7227 POLYPHANT CARVING – ENGLISH SOAPSTONE

Tutor: PAULA HAUGHNEY

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Polyphant is the only commercially available soapstone in Britain. It comes from Cornwall and looks more akin to granite but carves like wood with a grain. It is a metamorphic rock and is classified as steatite on the basis of the talc presence. In Cornwall it is called Elvan. It weighs heavy and comes in tones of dull green, grey and blue with spots of light grey or orange but it is transformed through carving and smoothing with abrasives. It will take a lustrous polish enhancing its dark green blue surface. It is a soft stone exhibiting a hardness of between 1 and 3 using Mohs scale.

Easy to carve, it can be textured with different tools and hammers or polished to a smooth finish. Polyphant is a peculiar unique stone and on this course you will learn the techniques to achieve a successful sculpture. Various surface finishes can be achieved from oils to waxes and it is possible for it to go outside.

There is a beautiful example in Chichester cathedral in the shape of a font by John Skelton and it has been used since Norman times as an ornamental stone in churches.

Polyphant stone is soft but a superb medium for carving, perfect to carve for all abilities, especially beginners. It looks best in strong bold shapes, abstract or figurative.

To begin on the introductory evening a presentation will be given to give some background to the stone and its uses, also various examples by sculptors.

The first exercise will be to make a small sample in Polyphant incorporating all the marks and finishes available. This will be used as a reference in later sculptures.

It is a lovely stone and this course will enable you to create a pleasing sculpture in the forthcoming week.

### LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

*Stone carving is a physical activity. Best done standing up but can be done sitting down. Most obstacles to a comfortable and productive course can be overcome. Just tell your tutor in advance.*

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Paula Haughney is an experienced stone carver and sculptor whose career spans thirty years. She has carved many site specific sculptures and exhibits widely.

### TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Sunday 10 September

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 – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b> A presentation including geological information and inspiration from other artists and sculptors. Hand outs will be given throughout the course.

### **Other days: Monday 11 to Thursday 14 September**

(The course is held in the sculpture courtyard which is a short walk from the main house through the walled garden. It is a covered space but open on one side. It can be accessed by vehicle. We return to the main house for main meals but not morning coffee and afternoon tea which we have in the Garden Restaurant.)

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
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: Friday 15 September**

(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:**

Students are encouraged to bring any inspiring resource material, images, objects.

### **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. All tools and equipment are provided by the college for the students use when they attend the course.

### **Available from the Shop:**

The College stocks a range of sizes and shapes of Polyphant to buy. From blocks to natural shapes, it is dense and weighs heavy for its size. £3-4 a kilo.

### **Available from the tutor:**

Some random shapes of Polyphant. Also I will bring many books, images and objects to inspire. It is easier to come open-minded as it's best to see the available stone first before settling on an idea to make.

### **Please bring in addition:**

An apron or overall to work in and a good pair of shoes or boots (not sandals)

### **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. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.