

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07692 WOODCARVING FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: ALEX JONES

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 9 MARCH – SUNDAY 11 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The course is intended to provide a starting point to develop enthusiasm and introduce the specific skills and techniques involved in woodcarving.

The tutor aims to encourage and direct you to use your talents effectively and, as in his own work, to develop closeness with the subject and working process using simple tools and the natural qualities of wood: understanding its limitations, pushing to the limits and testing skills.

In order to develop your skills and confidence the tutor presents a small-scale simple carving exercise which involves 'recreating' in wood a small natural form, leaf, snail shell, flower. Then he will guide you to find or create your own design – the most economical, both in terms of labour, planning and materials, will be a relief carving. This carving process will entail:

- Initial removal of excess wood (roughing out) and gaining confidence in the use of the gouge.
- Developing the form using gouge and flat chisel.
- Detailing the work with the use of various small gouges and the use of punches to create texture and surface detail.
- Surface treatment, sealing, oiling, polishing, considering appropriate finish for various surfaces.

The tutor will give technical information and practical instruction, alongside guidance to allow you to develop your own approach to the subject.

You can expect to complete a piece of work in the time available, and to leave with an understanding on how to approach your next project.

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:

Alex Jones learnt his craft at City & Guilds Art College and in a traditional studio before concentrating on commissions. His work can be seen at Durrell Wildlife Park, Jersey and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall. He has many pieces in private collections worldwide and has appeared on the *BBC's Spring Watch* and as a featured artist on the TV programme *Flog it!*. His work is driven by the influence fine wood carving and scale can have on a subject. Ugly can become beautiful and common, exotic.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 9 March

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. During this time we will look at choice of timber that is appropriate to specific needs; which wood should be used for a particular job; considering its durability, texture; seasoning and drying; buying ready prepared; collecting, preparing and seasoning your own; and the essential tools and sharpening equipment, the use and care of them.

Other days: Saturday 10 March

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00	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: Students may work on in the workshop, untutored, during the evening until 10pm, on aspects of their work discussed in advance with the tutor.

Departure day: Sunday 11 March

(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:

Please bring source material, drawings or photographs, of a natural object you would like to carve.

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 a piece of lime wood supplied for your carving is included in the course fee.

Available from the Shop:

Additional lime wood
Pencils
Paper and tracing paper

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

Clothing and sturdy covered footwear suitable for the workshop (*open sandals must not be worn in the workshop*)

Ideas/designs developed from natural forms suitable to carve in relief

Please Note: The College provides carving tools for the course but students may bring any carving tools they already have (*please mark any tools you bring to the course*).

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.