

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S3D07558 LETTERPRESS PRINTING

Tutor: PATRICK RANDLE

Dates: 3 DAYS SUNDAY 14 JANUARY – WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY

*"Letterpress is a traditional printing technique developed by Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz the 1450's in order to duplicate the printed word using lead type. Letterpress today is enjoying resurgence; I believe that letterpress printed text from hot metal type is unrivalled for the crispness of its impression, the quality of its typefaces and for that illusive third dimension that is completely lacking in much of today's printing. The depth of colour, touch and even smell, allied with an opportunity to think creatively with words and letters that exist in the physical form, provide a timely antidote to today's digital world."*

Patrick Randle

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

You begin by planning the structure of your book, which will be 8-pages in format. A wide range of metal and wood type will be provided alongside two printing presses; an Albion and a Farley proofing press. Instruction will be given in how to compose lines of type using a setting stick, how to impose those lines into a chase and how to successfully lock that chase up so that it can be transported to the press.

You will then be guided through the various stages of the printing process and learn to apply ink and pressure in harmony so as to create the perfect printed impression. There will be opportunity to bind your book, applying a simple stitch thread to your works.

During the course you will be encouraged to react and think imaginatively when confronted with the constraints of the letterpress process, and to allow the look of the book to evolve rather than adhere to a preconceived picture. This will help open up your creativity and possibilities for experimentation. Ideas on the content of the books will be discussed as a group on the first evening session, and will develop during your time spent with the type cases and presses.

By the end of the course you will have completed 10 copies of your book to take away. You will have gained knowledge and skills in working with type, ink, presses and paper as well as simple binding. You will also have gained confidence in working with letterpress imaginatively.

### 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.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Patrick runs Nomad Letterpress from the Whittington Press, near Cheltenham. Patrick grew up working at the Press with his father John, studied History of Art at Leeds University, and went on to finish his apprenticeship with Hand & Eye Letterpress and Alan Kitching in London. Patrick is co-editor and printer of Double Dagger, printer of Matrix, 'the finest periodical of the book arts of the 20th Century', and has led letterpress workshops and demonstrations extensively throughout the UK and Europe.

### TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Sunday 14 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 – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b>
	Ideas on the content of the books will be discussed as a group evening session.

**Other days: Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 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
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: Wednesday 17 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:**

A loose idea on the content of your book.

**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 course fee includes the cost of providing inks and newsprint shared amongst the group. There will also be some printing paper to get you started, you will need to purchase more as required during the course.

**Available from the Shop:**

Zerkall 120gsm paper  
Binding thread

**Available from the tutor:**

Binding thread to purchase

**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.